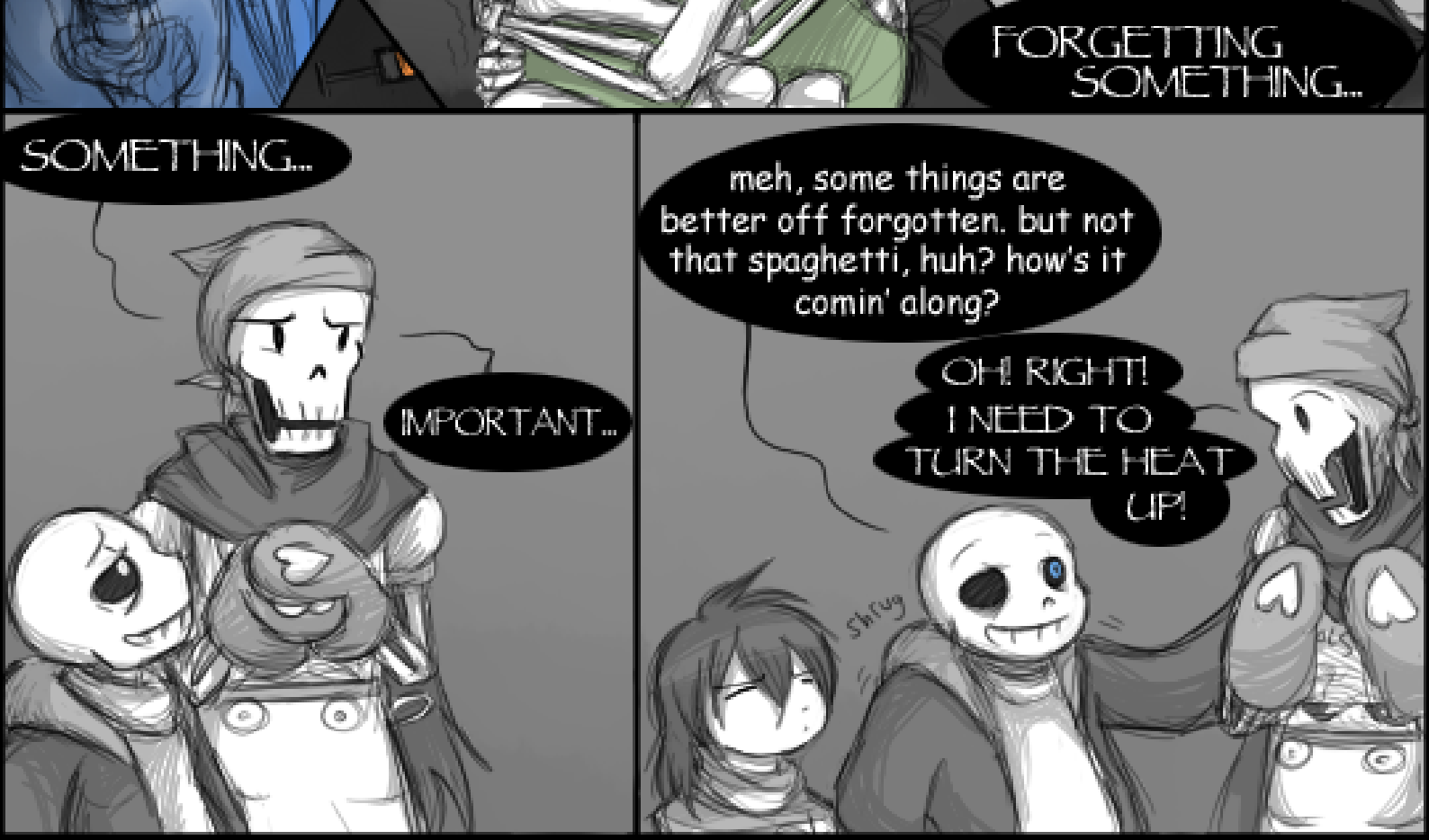
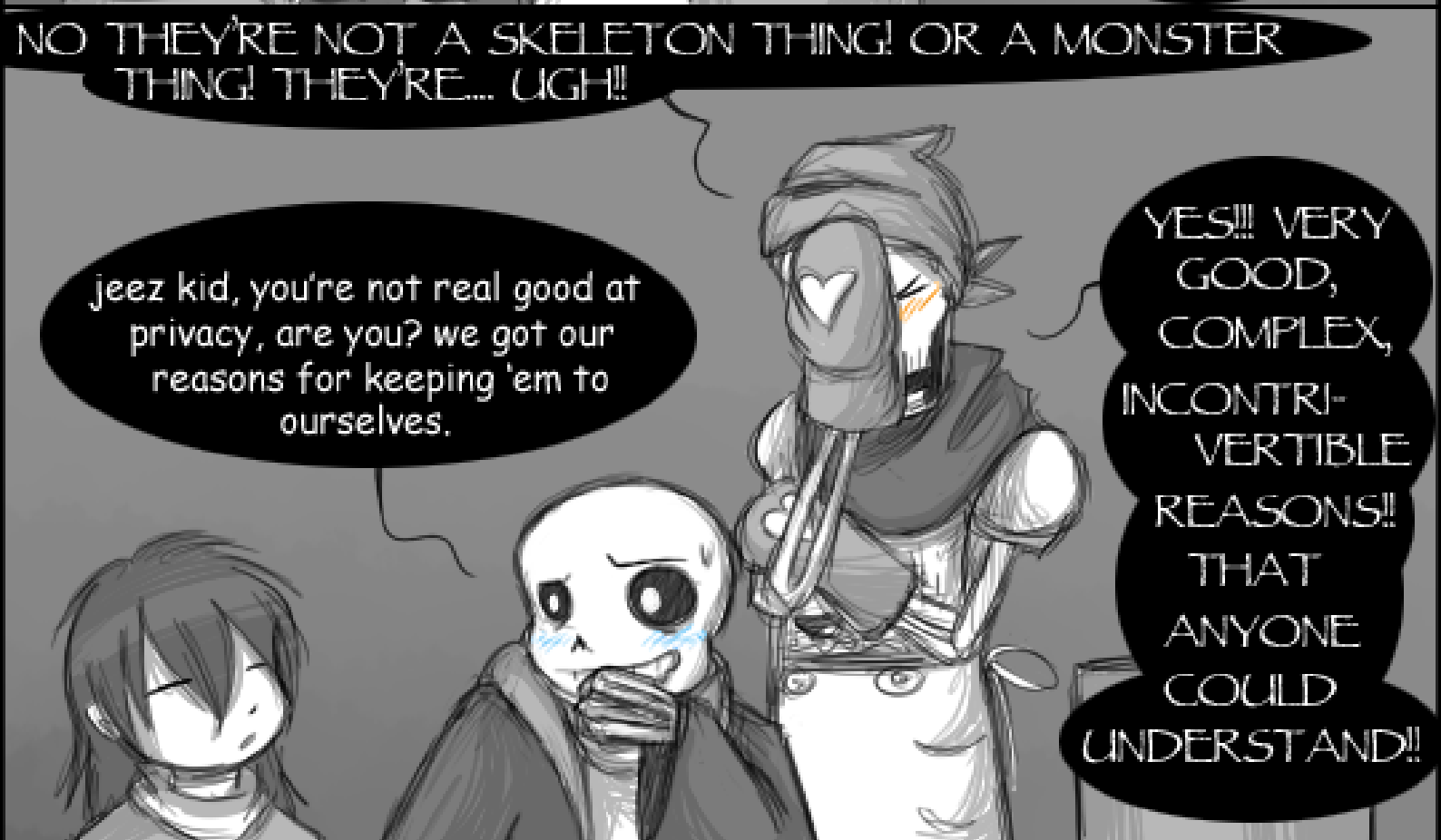
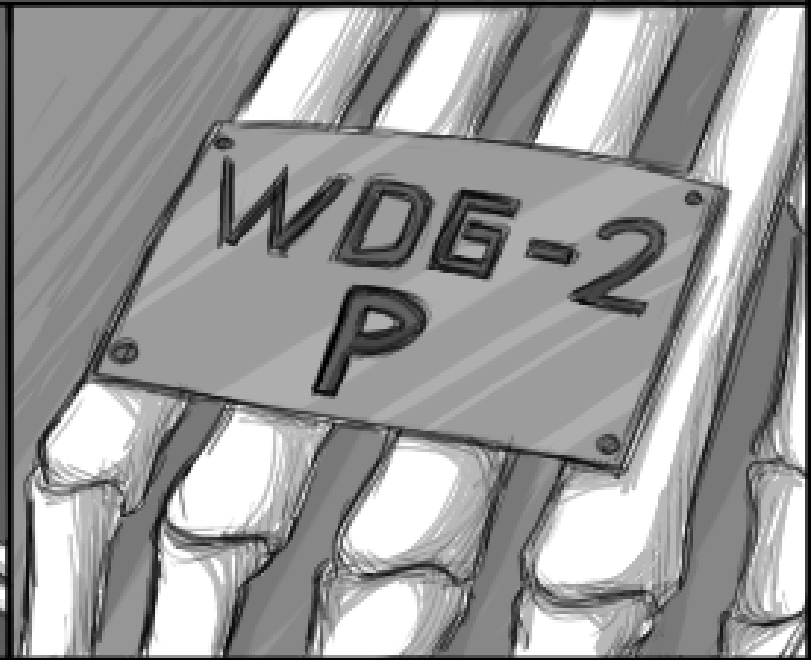
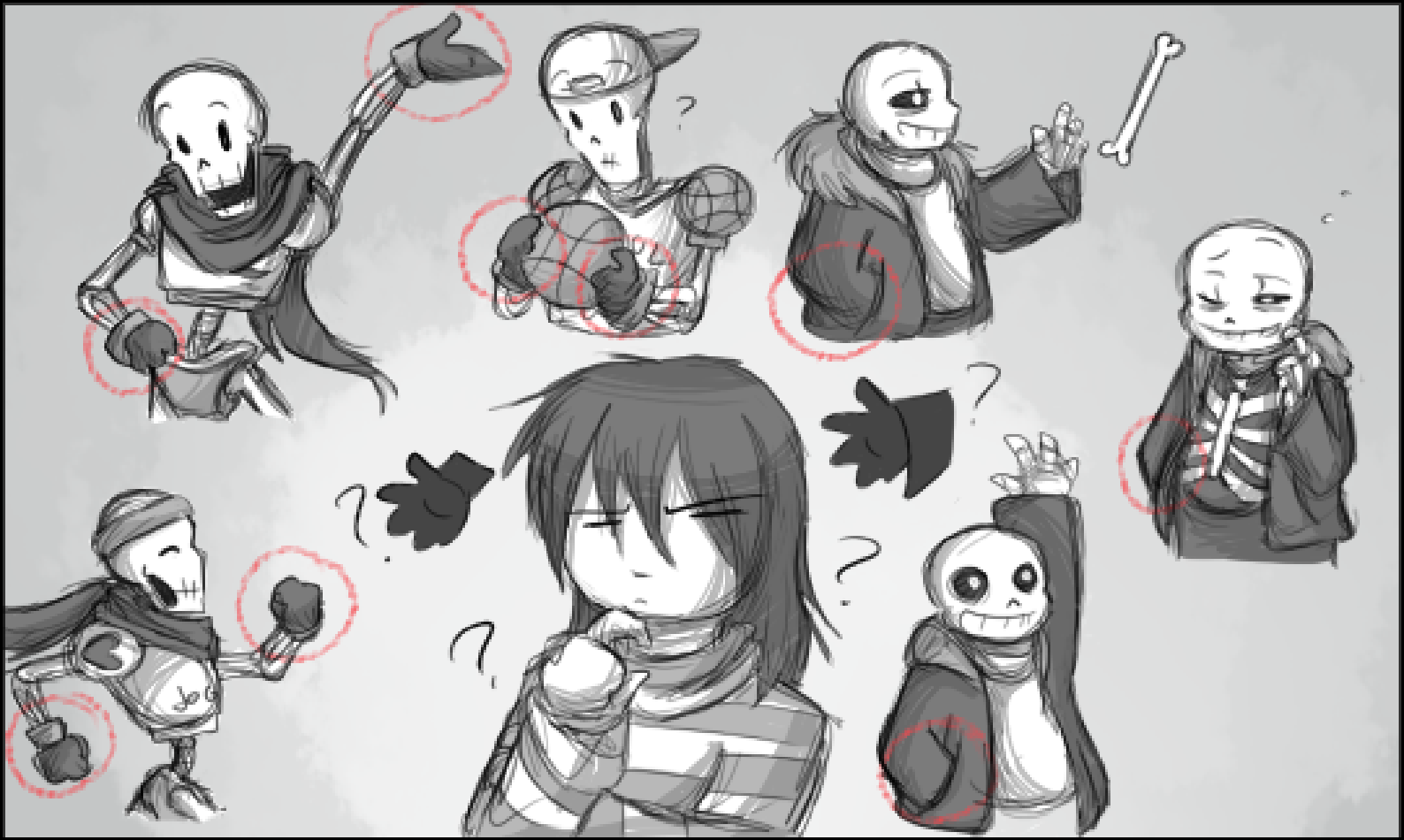
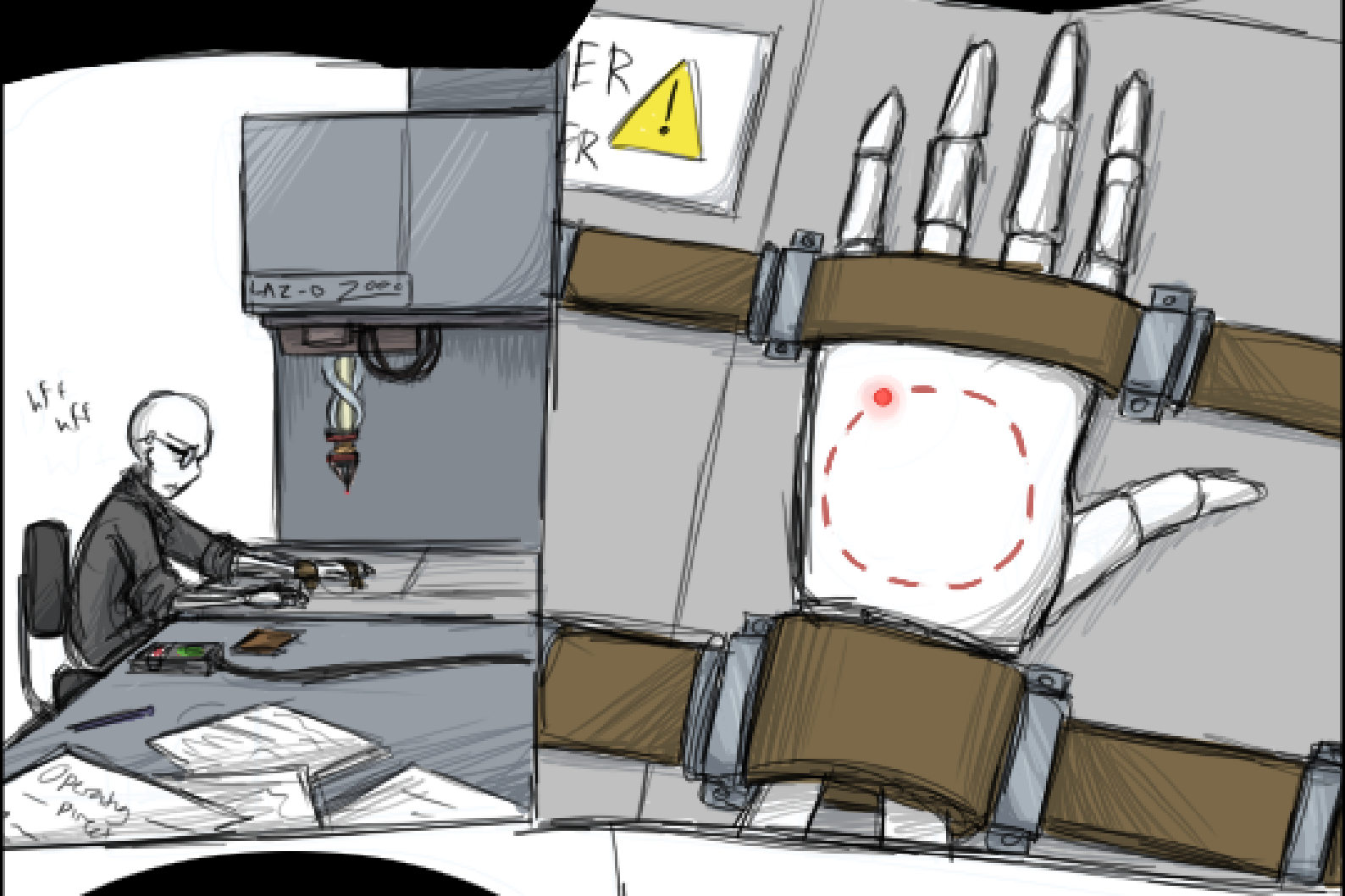




Alright, the... mechanism is in place. I've checked my calculations several times. Everything is in order.

I must remember... this is the only way I can easily get the amount of magical... material required. There are no other wide and solid places on my body that are easily accessible... aside from my skull, which is not an option. This is the only way.



I've done the calculations. There should be no effect to my dexterity. I can withstand the damage without putting myself in danger. I know my conclusions are correct.

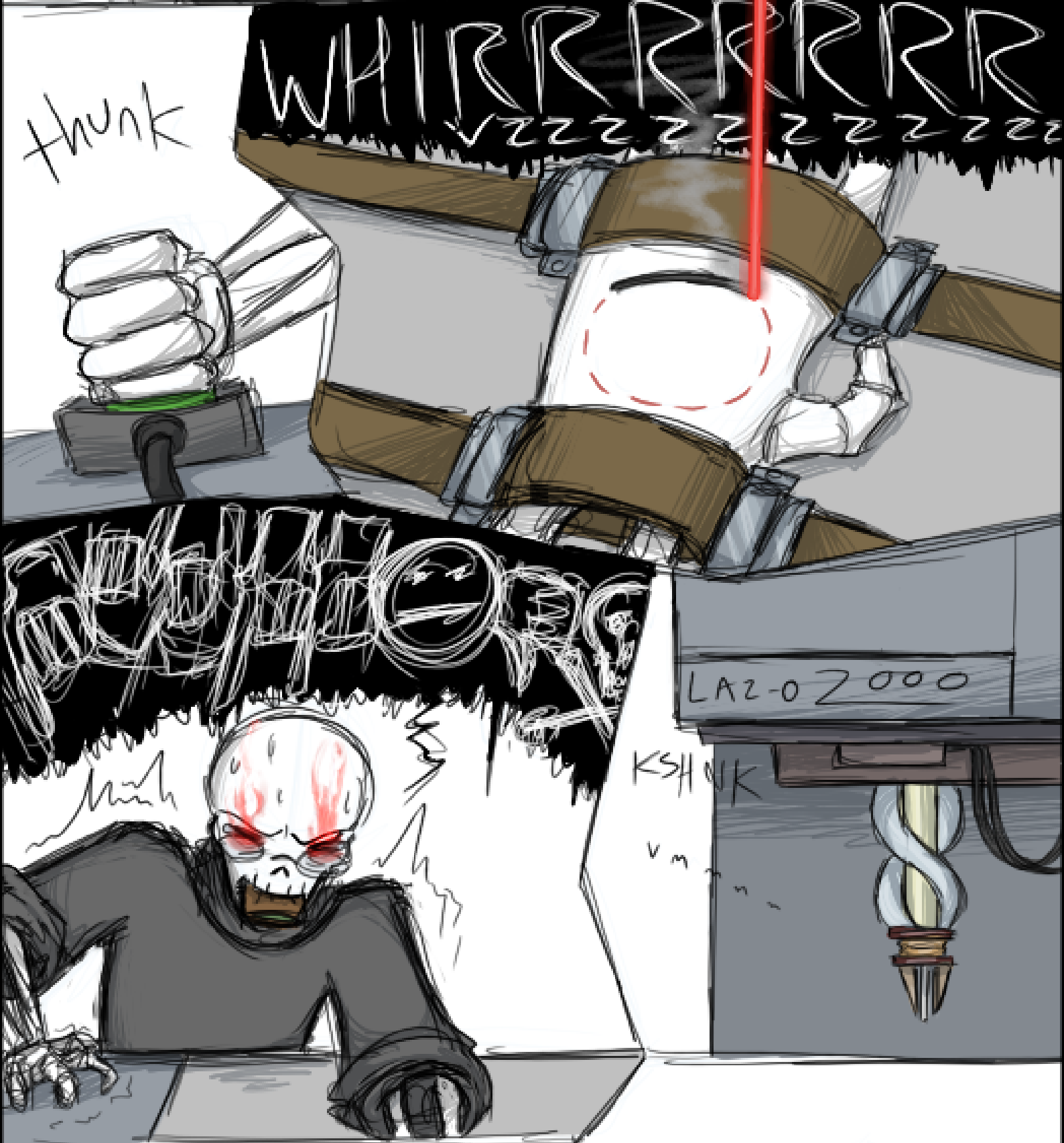
There is nothing to fear.

It's only five seconds.

My hand is in place, and the mechanism is ready.

I just need to... press the button...

I just need to...

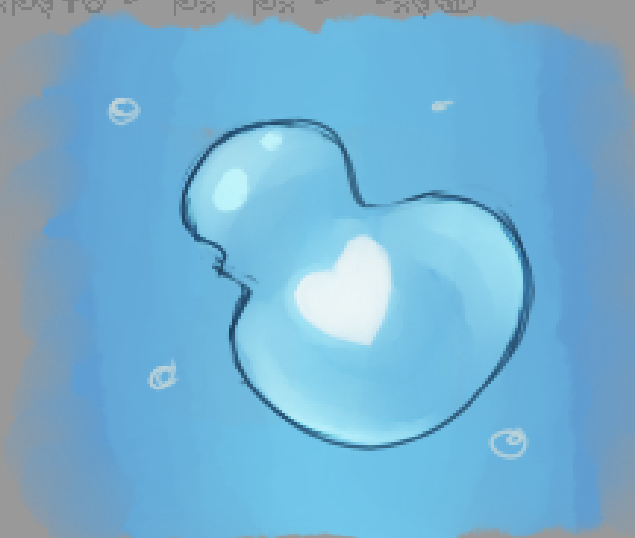


...One down...



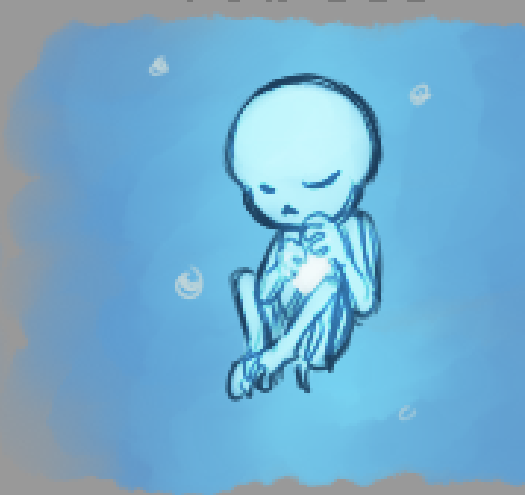
DAY [REDACTED]
BOTH PHYSICAL SAMPLES
HAVE BONDED WITH THE
SOUL FRAGMENTS. PROGRESS
SO FAR EXCEEDS
EXPECTATIONS. THE VORTEX
OF MAGIC AROUND THE SOUL
IS IN CONSTANT FLUX,
ALTHOUGH IT FREQUENTLY
MANIFESTS A LARGE
NODULE ON ONE END.

DAY [REDACTED]
THE LARGE NODULE IS
BECOMING A PERSISTENT
FEATURE. FOUR SMALLER
TENDRILS OF MAGIC HAVE
EXTENDED FROM THE
MAIN MAGIC MASS.
THESE TENDRILS HAVE
BEEN SURPRISINGLY
CONSTANT SINCE
THEY MANIFESTED.



DAY [REDACTED]
EACH SPECIMEN HAS
DEFORMED ITS PHYSICAL
VORTEX IN THE SAME
WAY. THE FOUR LONGER
EXTRUSIONS HAVE
BRANCHED INTO FIVE TINY
ONES ON EACH END. AM
KEEPING A CLOSE EYE TO
SEE IF THIS TREND
IS EXPONENTIAL.

DAY [REDACTED]
THE LARGE NODULE
WITHOUT ANY
EXTREMITIES
APPEARS TO HAVE
DEVELOPED SOME KIND
OF PARTIAL
PERFORATIONS IN A
LOOSELY TRIANGULAR
CONFIGURATION.
THEY SOMEWHAT
RESEMBLE.



EYE... SOCKETS...

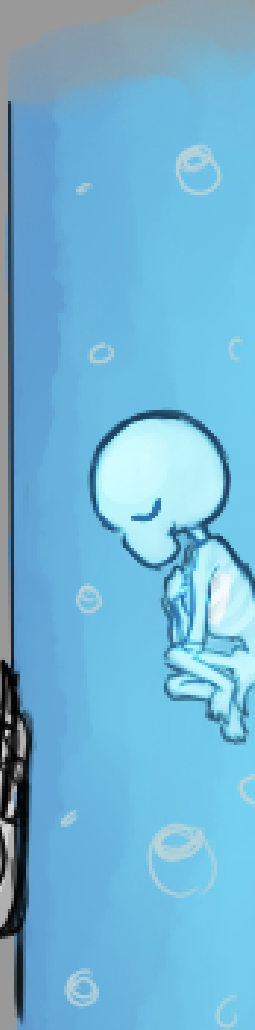


Oh [REDACTED]



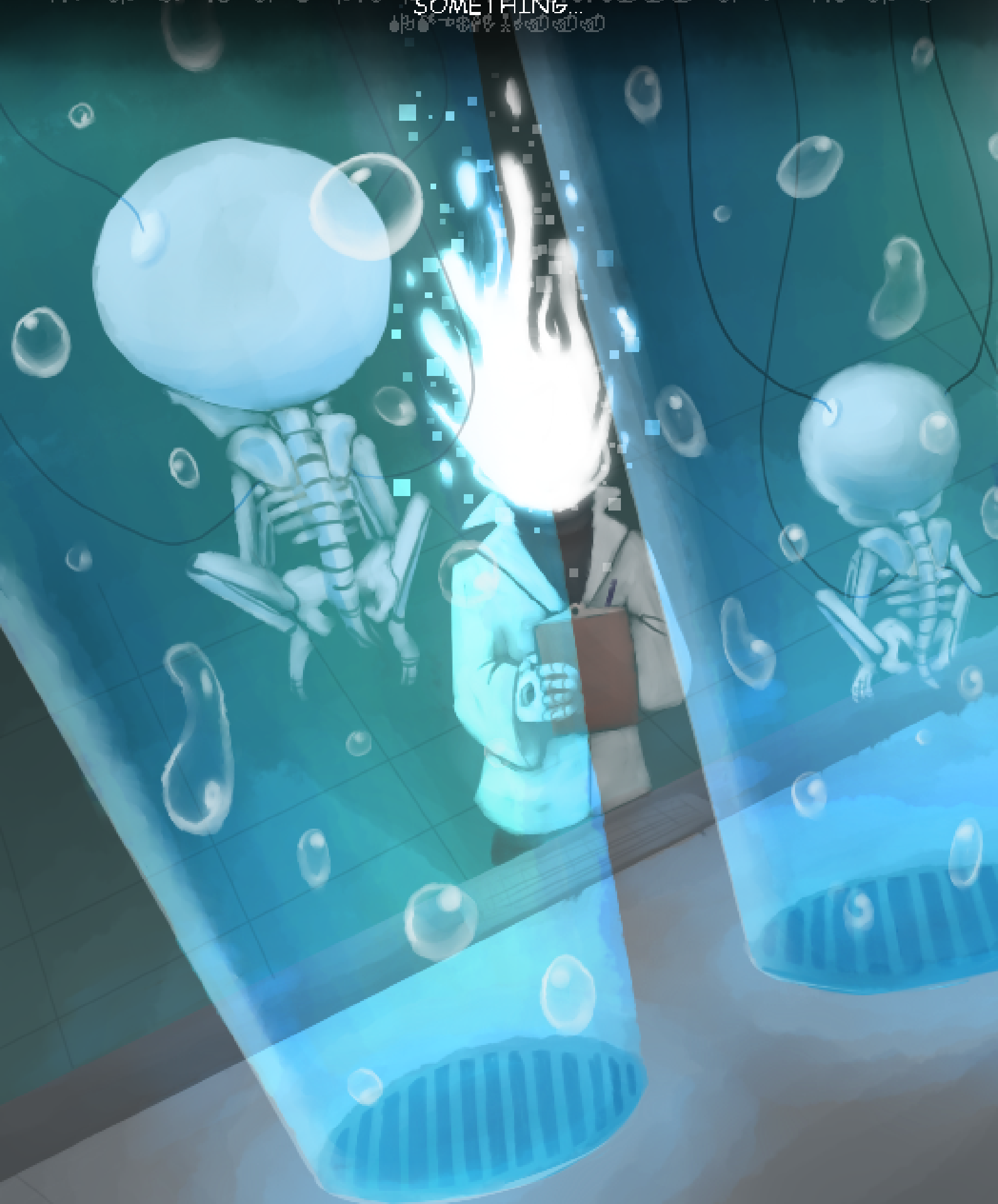
You're not
supposed to look
like skeletons!

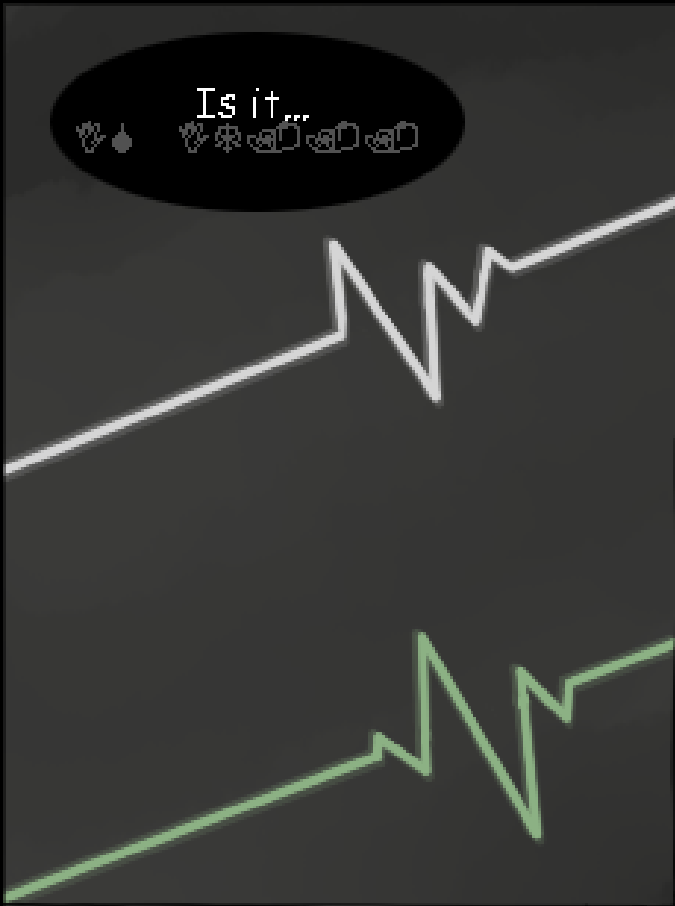
You're not supposed
to look like me.



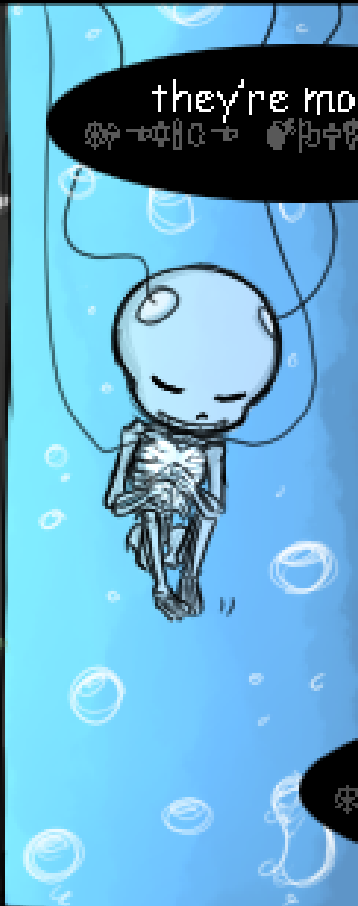
MORE SETBACKS. AFTER TAKING SHAPE, THE MAGIC MASS HAS BECOME COMPLETELY INERT. NO SIGN OF LIFE, MOVEMENT, GROWTH, OR CHANGE FROM EITHER OF THEM FOR OVER A WEEK. THEY MAY AS WELL BE CALCIFIED MAGICAL EXHIBITIONS IN A PARTICULARLY MACABRE MUSEUM. THEY'RE NO GOOD TO ME LIKE THIS - I NEED THEM ALIVE.

I CAN'T HAVE COME THIS FAR TO GIVE UP NOW. THERE MUST BE A WAY TO BREAK THEM OUT OF THIS STASIS... THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING...

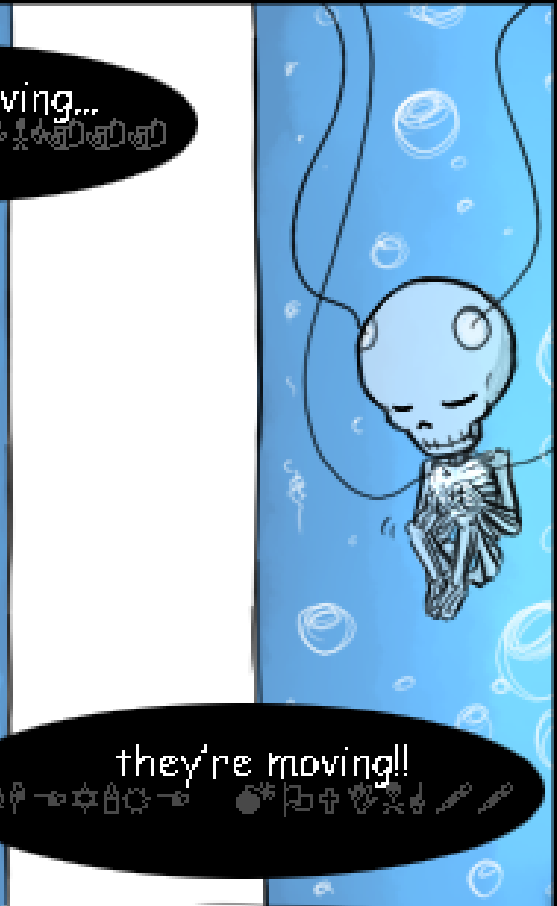




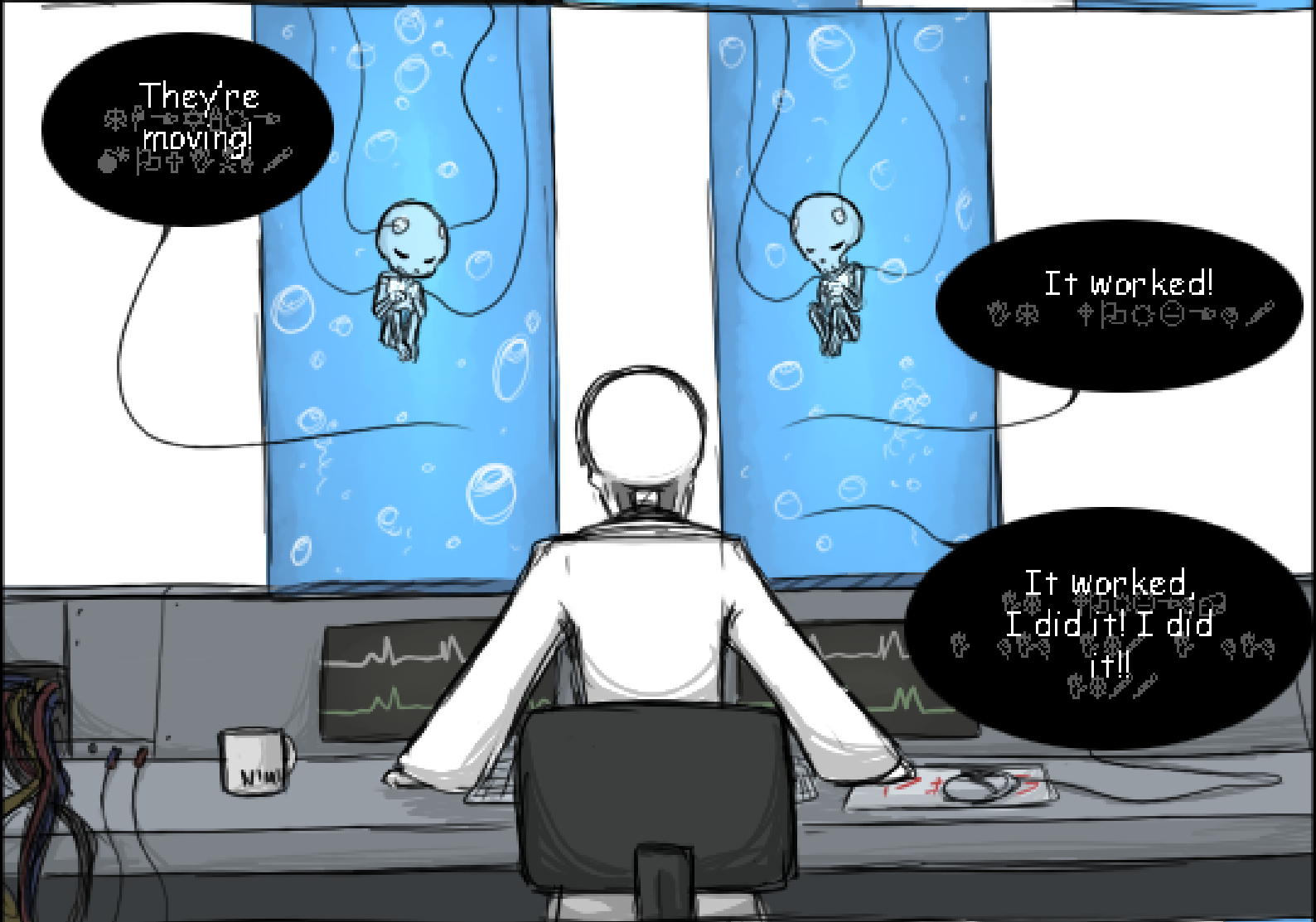
Is it...



they're moving...



they're moving!!



They're moving!

It worked!

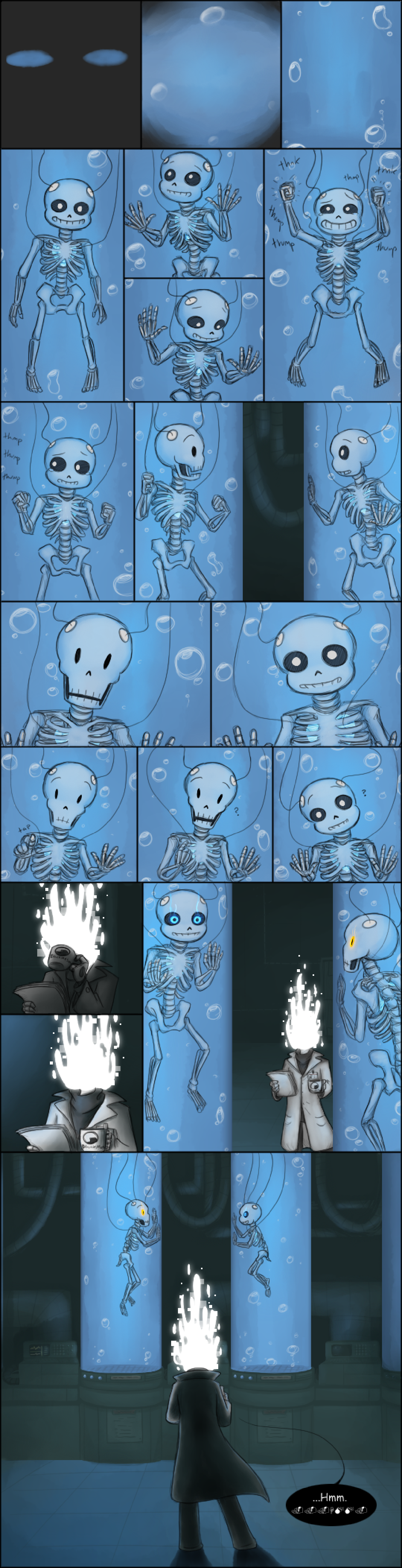
It worked!
I did it! I did it!!



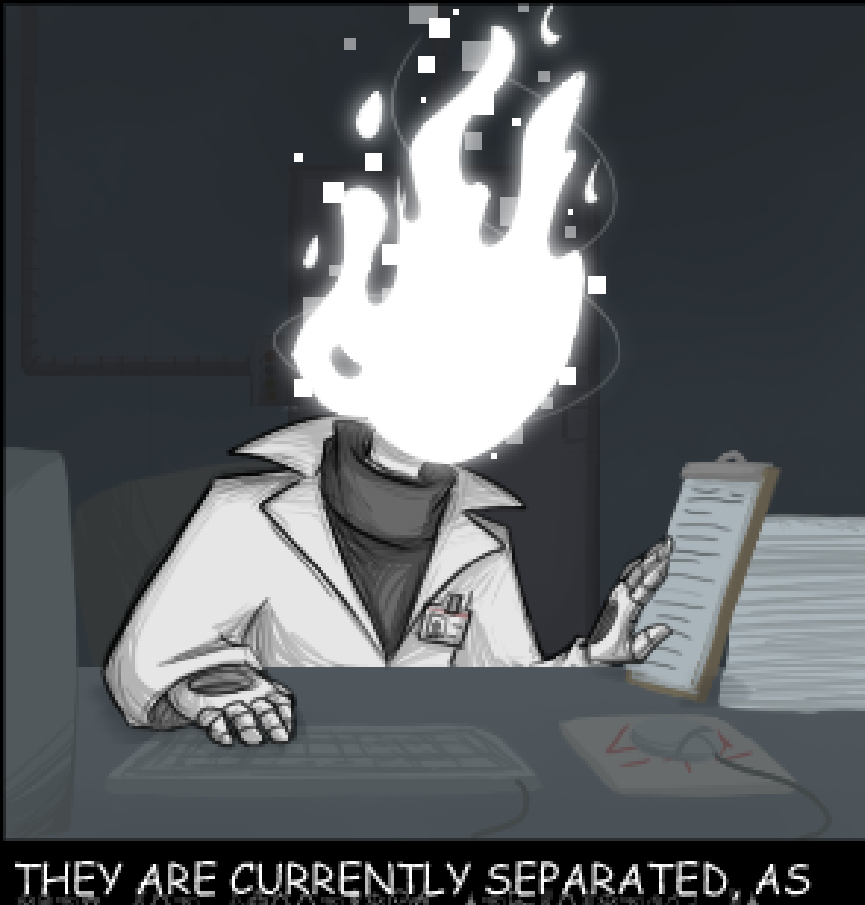
They're alive!



You're alive...



...Hmm.



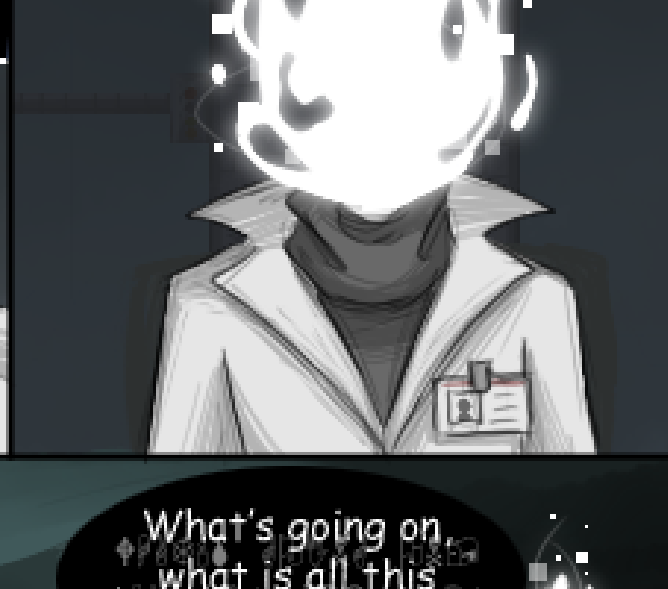
IT'S BEEN SIX HOURS SINCE I'VE REMOVED THEM FROM THE M-D SOLUTION. THEY ARE CLUMSY AND CONFUSED, FEARFUL. THEY STUMBLE AND TRIP LIKE CHIL

AS EXPECTED, LITTLE EXPERIENCE IN NON-SUSPENSION HAS LEAD TO A DIFFICULT ADJUSTMENT PERIOD, PARTICULARLY REGARDING AMBULATORY MOTION. IT WILL COME IN TIME, I'M SURE.

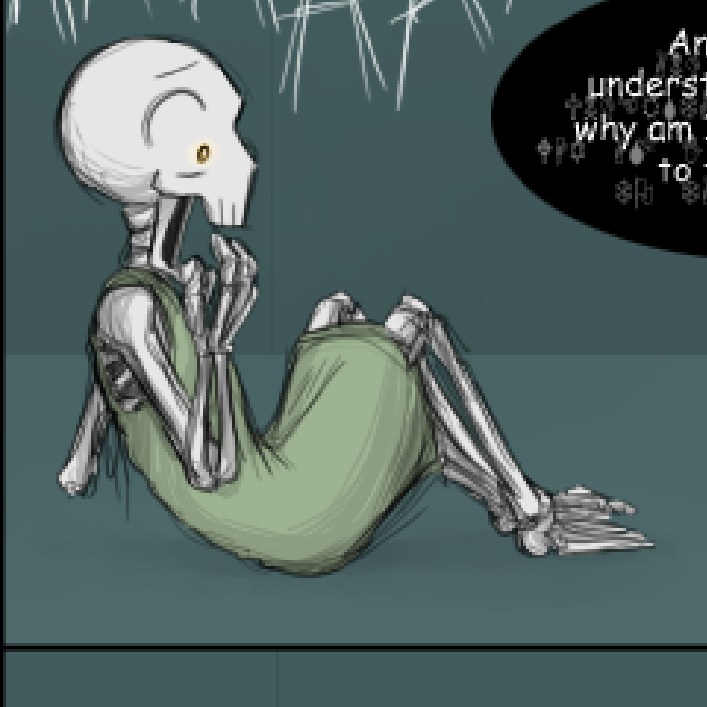
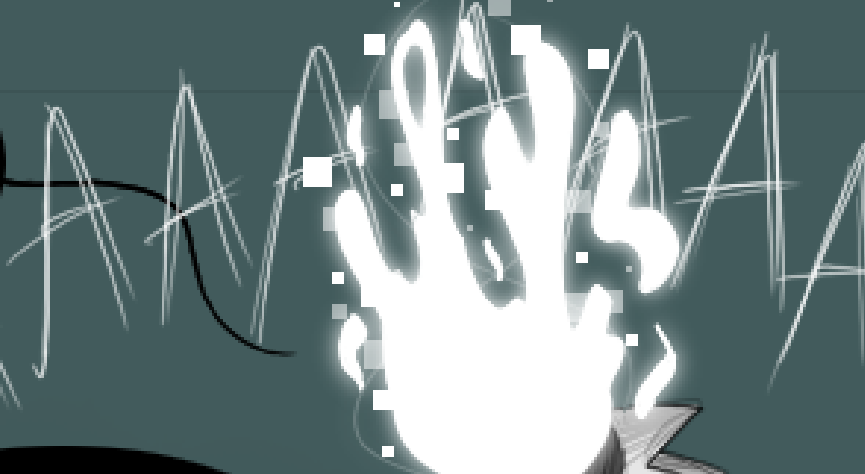
THEY ARE CURRENTLY SEPARATED, AS THE NATURE OF THEIR INTEREST IN EACH OTHER IS UNCLEAR AT THIS POINT. I WILL INVESTIGATE THIS MORE CAREFULLY AT A LATER DATE AFTER THEY'VE MASTERED MOVEMENT. THEY DO NOT APPEAR TO UNDERSTAND ME OR BE CAPABLE OF SPEECH - THEY MAY NOT BE TRULY SENTIENT. IT WILL BE EASIER IF THEY ARE NOT.

IT DOES NOT MATTER EITHER WAY.

THE LINE WAS CROSSED LONG AGO, THERE IS NO TURNING BACK NOW.



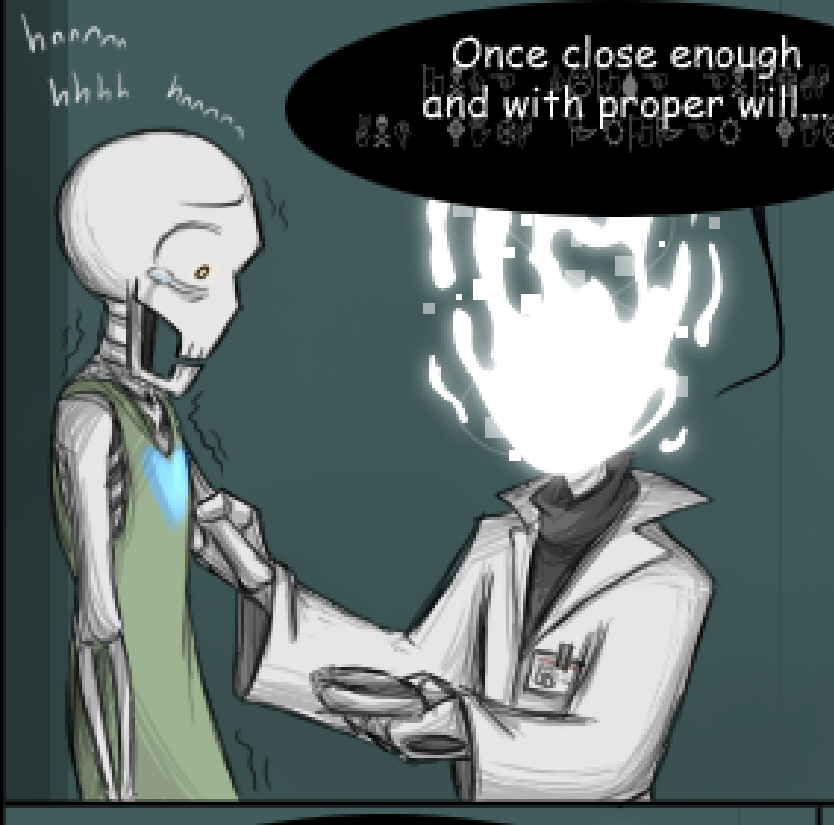
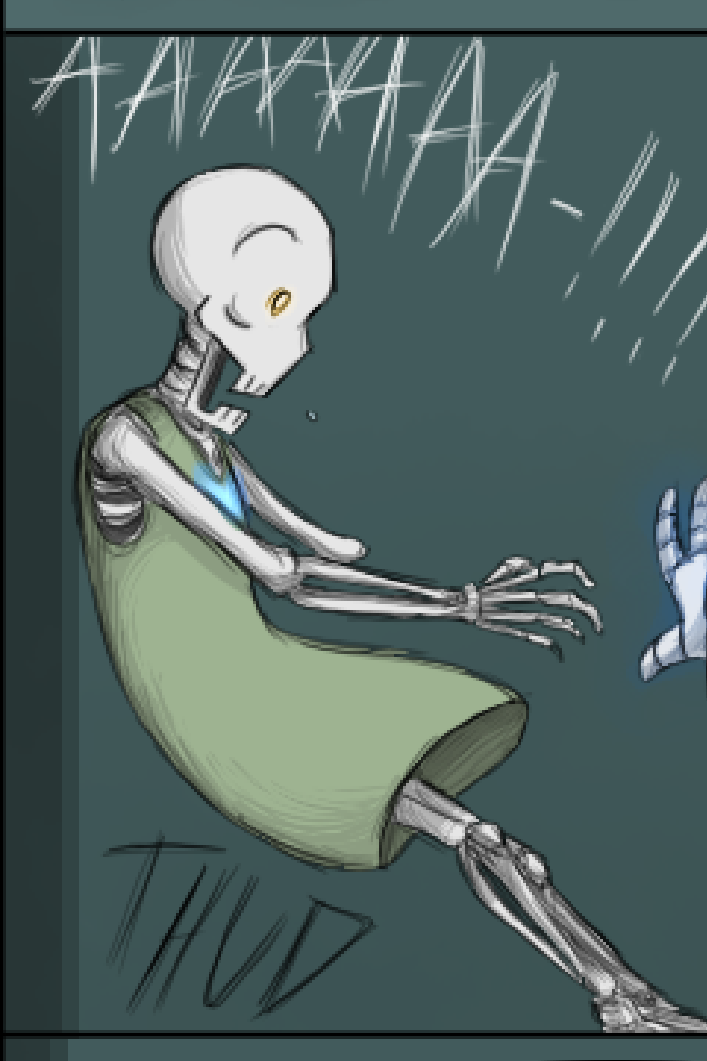
Limb detachment for a skeleton is completely normal and entirely painless, there is absolutely no call for carrying on like this.



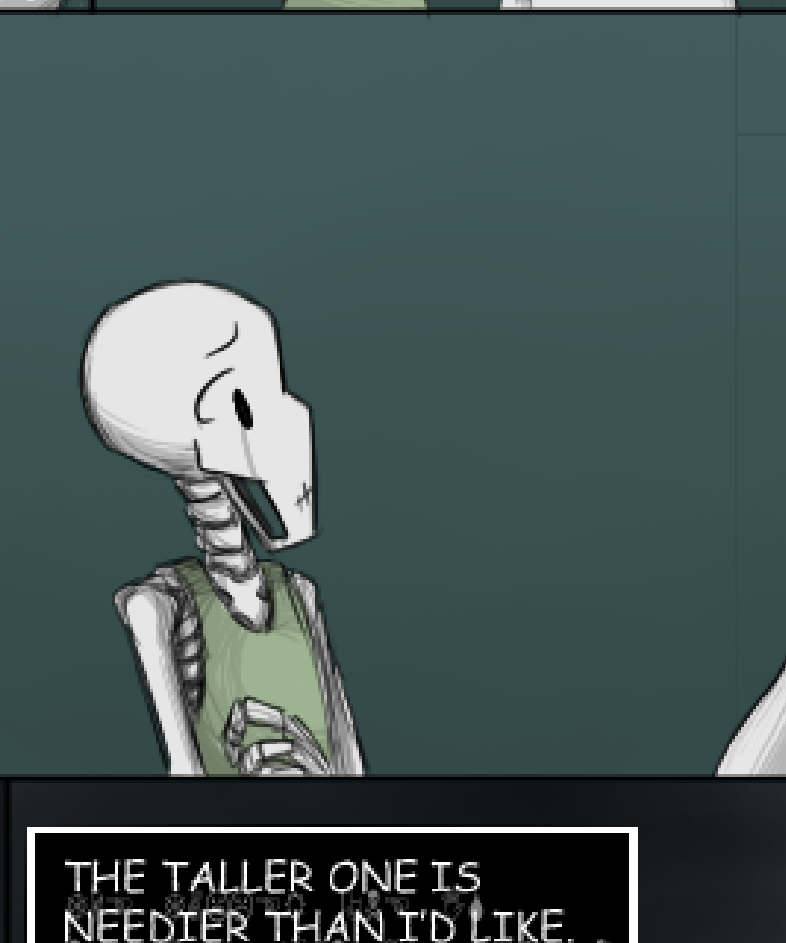
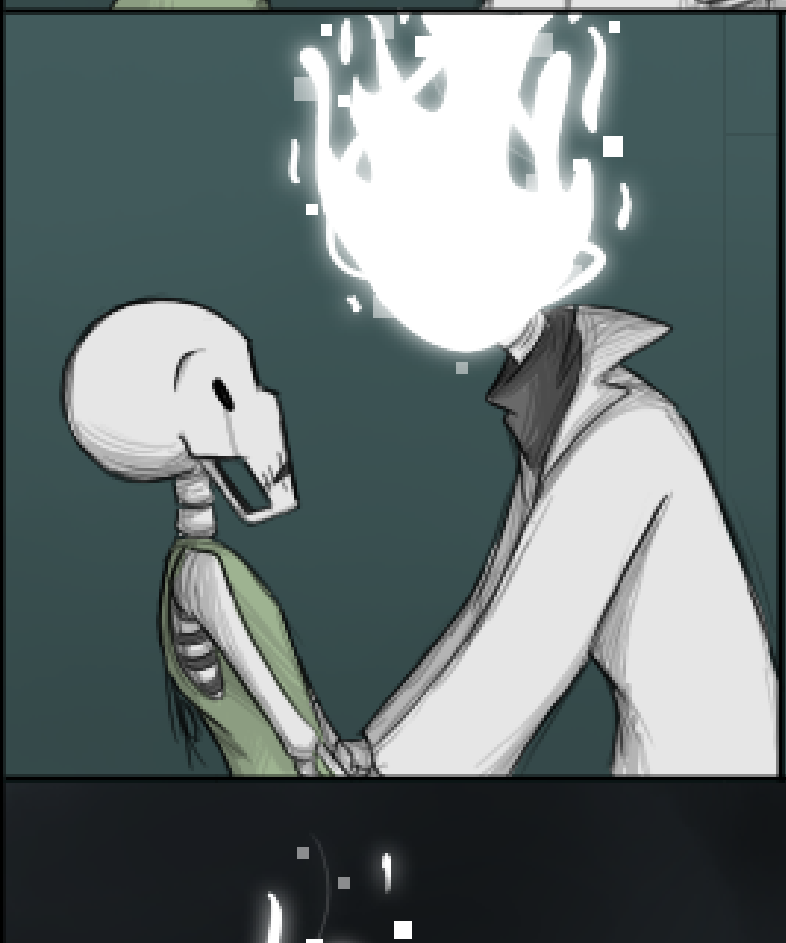
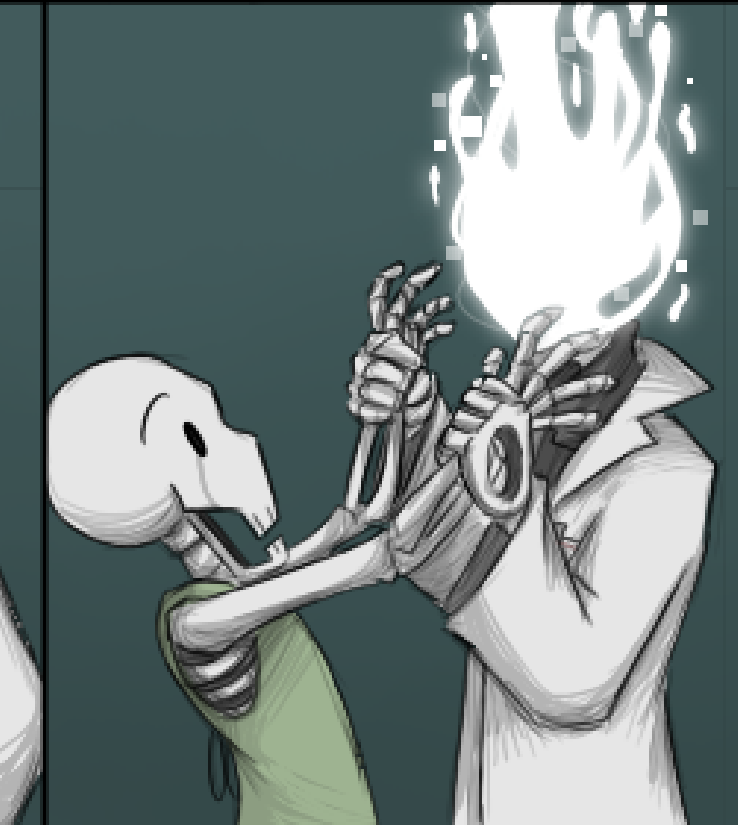
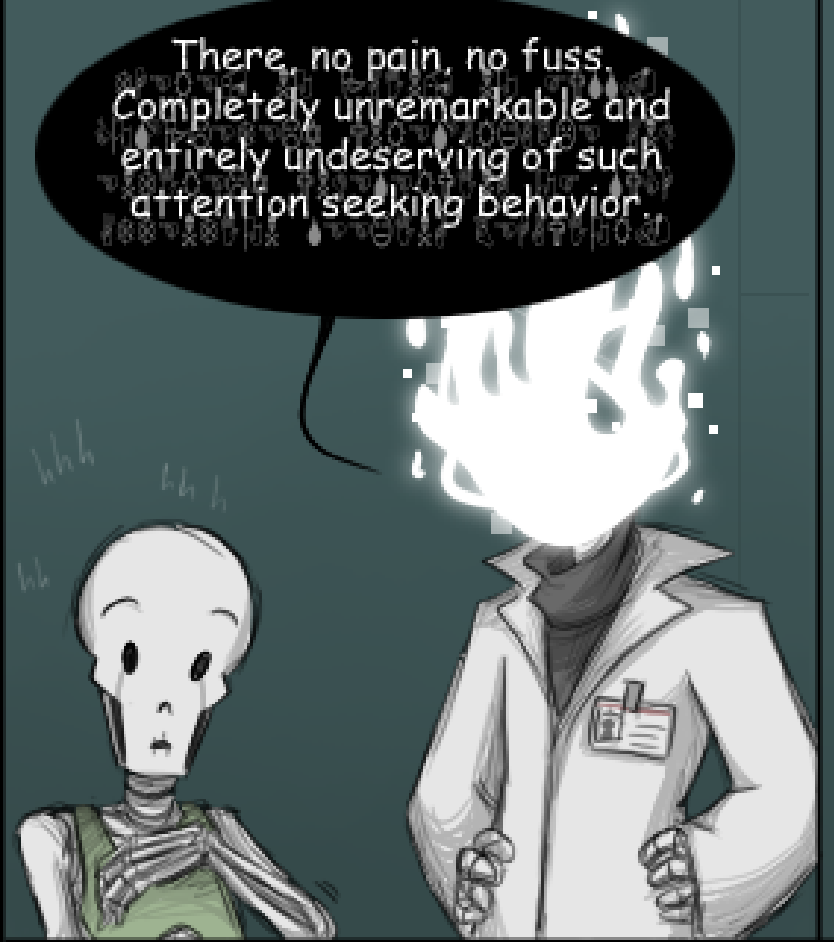
And you can't understand me anyway, why am I even bothering to talk to you?



I am not in the mood for this, stay still!



the arm reattaches.



THE TALLER ONE IS NEEDIER THAN I'D LIKE.



THE LITTLESMAILLER ONE IS AWAKE. I'M SURPRISED BOTH THAT HE'S SURVIVED OUTSIDE AT ALL, GIVEN HIS FRAILTY, AND THAT HE'S WOKEN UP AGAIN SO QUICKLY. HE MAY BE HARDIER THAN I INITIALLY THOUGHT, WHICH IS PROMISING.

I WENT TO OBSERVE HIM IN PERSON. A TRANSCRIPT OF MY NOTES FOLLOWS:

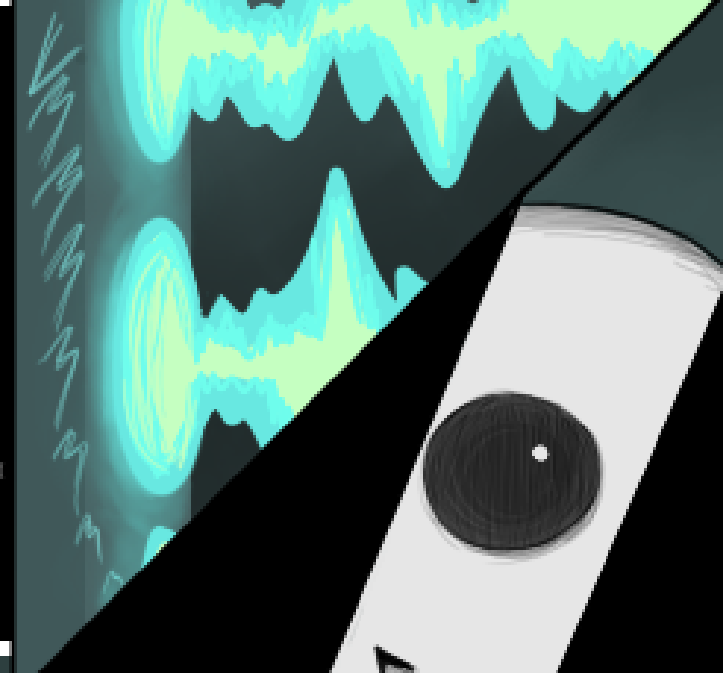
I AM KEEPING MY DISTANCE AT FIRST.



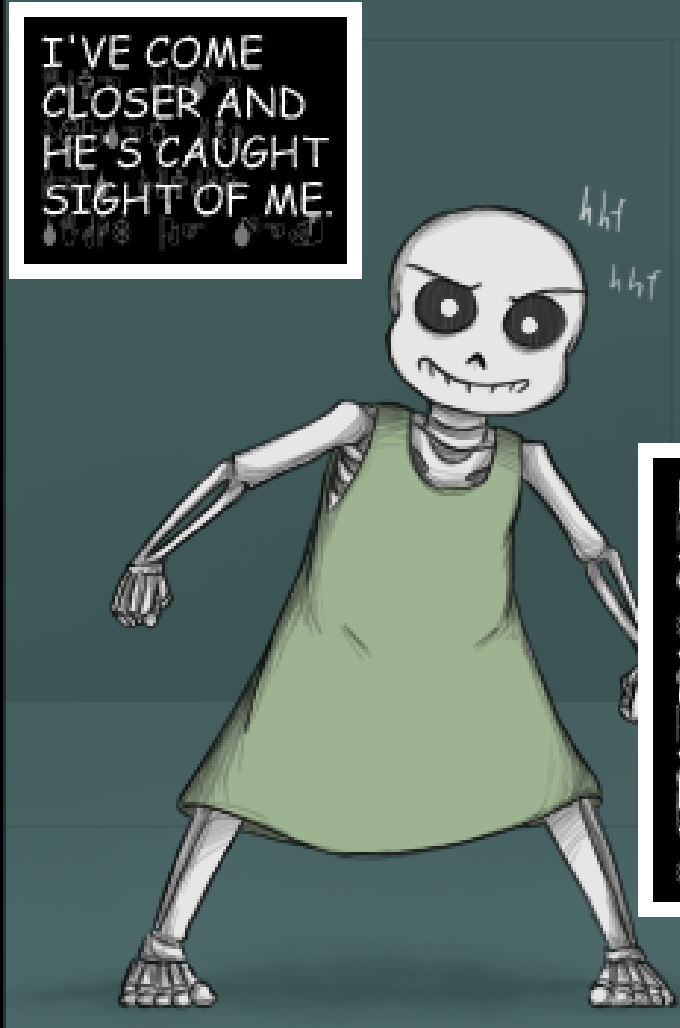
HE IS POKING AND PRODDING AT THE WALLS AND THE FLOOR, THOUGH HE DOES NOT COME NEAR THE FORCEFIELD. MAYBE HE SENSES THE AURA IT GIVES OFF. I GET THE IMPRESSION HE IS TRYING TO FIND A WAY OUT. PERHAPS HE WANTS TO GO BACK TO THE SUSPENSION?



HE HAS YET TO MAKE ANY SOUND. IT'S PREFERABLE TO THE OTHER ONE'S CONSTANT WHINING AND CRYING. HE MAY NOT BE CAPABLE OF IT, OR HE MAY JUST BE TOO FOCUSED ON HIS EXPLORATION.

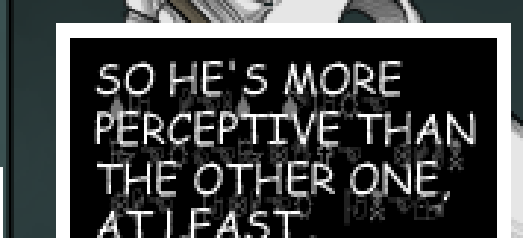


I'VE COME CLOSER AND HE'S CAUGHT SIGHT OF ME.

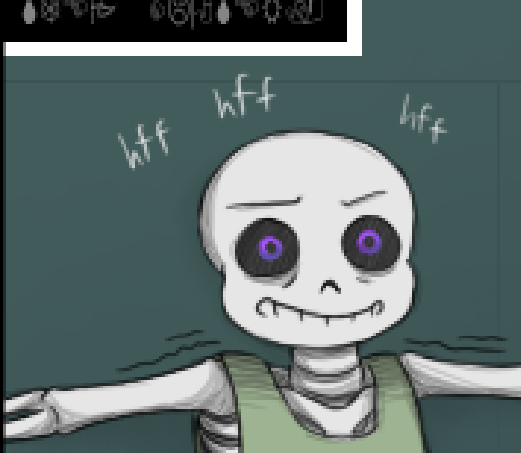


HE'S WARY AND SUSPICIOUS, THOUGH STILL SILENT. OBVIOUSLY HE SEES ME AS A POTENTIAL THREAT.

SO HE'S MORE PERCEPTIVE THAN THE OTHER ONE, AT LEAST.



I'VE TAKEN ANOTHER STEP CLOSER.



HIS EYES FLARED A DEEP PURPLE COLOR, INTERLACED WITH BLUE, AND HE BACKED UP AGAINST THE WALL.

ANOTHER STEP CLOSER, HIS EYES ARE GLOWING BRIGHTER.



I CAN SENSE MAGIC GATHERING WITHIN HIS SOUL, BUT HE'S TOO YOUNG/NEW TO KNOW HOW TO MAKE IT MANIFEST INTO AN ATTACK.

IF HE COULD OPEN HIS MOUTH, I'M SURE HE'D SNAP AT ME.



YOU CAN'T USE MAGIC TO DEFEND YOURSELF YET, AS MUCH AS YOU TRY.

I WONDER WHAT YOU'LL DO IF I KEEP APPROACHING?

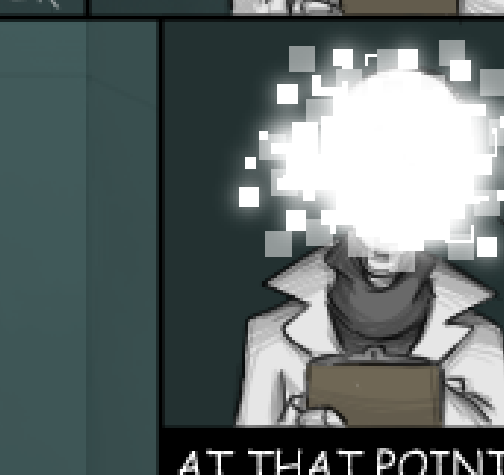
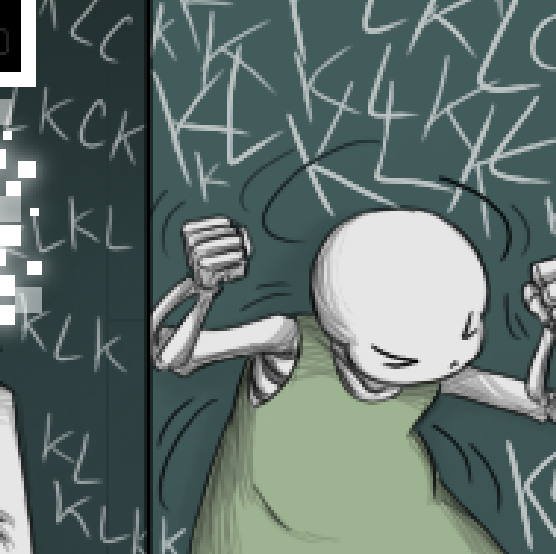
CLOSER STILL.

HE IS GETTING QUITE FRANTIC.

HE IS GETTING QUITE FRANTIC.



...HE'S RATTLING HIS BONES AT ME.



AT THAT POINT I DECIDED TO LEAVE HIM BE TO ATTEND TO OTHER MATTERS.



THE TWO OF THEM DIFFER STRIKINGLY IN TEMPERAMENT... ONE DOCTILE, ONE HOSTILE.

WHETHER THAT WILL MAKE THINGS EASIER OR HARDER, I WILL HAVE TO SEE.

An unexpected development.

I left them within earshot of one another while I was clearing one of the work rooms for future use.

It didn't take them long to realize the other was nearby -

perhaps a side-effect of the nature of their SOULS.

They made meaningless animal noises at each other

ah? awah?
AAAA- NNH? ANH?
unh! nnh!! awah!!

AAA, AUUUUWAAAAAA
gah aauu waah!
NNHH! EEHHH, AH!
gau! ngrh- agah! aba...

(Subject 1 IS capable of it after all)

nothing unusual or noteworthy, but then...

agabadah?
ABJUH WOO! DAH?

abibaba dabaga
BIBIBI JAGAWAHBO

They began to babble

abjuh co wuh oh da!
ABJUH WOO BE GAIEH
amuh da, no no, daba dah!
DISPABAGEH
spespuh nao!

I could recognize the noises they were stringing together

Bits and pieces of things I'd said to them.

oo wan gabadah, daboh?
AH OO ISSU, DON

They even mimicked my tone of voice, though clearly without understanding.

fo baba deebo no no

They can speak.

abjuh wuh!
ABJUH DOO!
um heeah
ISSNLING?

They can learn.

They are sentient after all.

I don't know how I feel about this.

I specifically accelerated their growth because I didn't want them to look like children. I don't want them to SOUND like children!

It's...

...unnecessary.

abaja gadeeba top!
BBABABABABA!

bibiblblbl

The rapid growth may apply to their minds as well.

if they can progress to an adult level of understanding, at least then.

I will introduce them to each other tomorrow with the proper precautions in place.

This wasn't in my plans, but one must always be ready to improvise.

We'll see what happens.

THIS IS IT.

SUBJECT 1 AND 2 ARE GOING TO MEET.

I'M KEEPING A TIGHT HOLD ON BOTH THEIR SOULS.

Don't touch me.

DUN TASH ME.

SO IF THEY FALL TO FIGHTING IT SHOULD BE A MATTER OF MOMENTS TO SEPARATE THEM BEFORE EITHER IS HURT. IT'S BEST TO BE PREPARED.

I'M NOT ENTIRELY SURE WHAT TO EXPECT.

THEY'VE SEEN EACH OTHER... THEY SEEM AT A LOSS FOR WHAT TO DO.

SUBJECT 1 SEEMS WARY.

SUBJECT 2'S EYES HAVE BEGUN GLOWING A WARM RED-ORANGE COLOR.

SUBJECT 1 SOON BEGAN GLOWING LIGHT BLUE IN RESPONSE.

THIS SEEMS TO HAVE CALMED THEM A LITTLE.

THEY ARE APPROACHING EACH OTHER.

WONK

THEY ARE CURIOUS ABOUT THE OTHER AS ONE MAY EXPECT.

THEY ARE THE FIRST LIVING THING THEY'VE SEEN ASIDE FROM MYSELF, AFTER ALL.

THEY ARE VERY EAGER AND QUICK TO LEARN. ALREADY THEIR LEVEL OF SPEECH HAS ADVANCED AT AN ASTONISHING RATE JUST BY SPEAKING TO EACH OTHER.

AS ONE LEARNS SOMETHING NEW.

ARMM

ahm?

HEND

pom

SEE

ONE OKAY

SO THE OTHER BUILDS OFF OF WHAT THEY'VE LEARNED TO NEW HEIGHTS:

ONE NO-MAL

A MUTUAL SCAFFOLDING.

THEY ARE INDEED LITTLE SKELETONS.

...AND THEY ARE GETTING VERY ATTACHED TO EACH OTHER VERY QUICKLY.

EMOTIONAL BONDS LIKE THIS CARRY THEIR OWN RISKS.

ON THE OTHER HAND...

Alright, that's enough.

PERHAPS THOSE BONDS CAN BE EXPLOITED LATER, SHOULD THE NEED ARISE.

ENTRY NUMBER █:

STEADY PROGRESS AT A RAPID RATE. THEY CAN SPEAK IN SENTENCES NOW.

SUBJECT 1 IS QUIET AND SOFTSPOKEN... A LOWERCASER, I'M SURE, WITHOUT MUCH ATTENTION TO DETAIL AND TAKEN TO MUMBLING.



2, HOWEVER, IS MORE CONFIDENT AND CLEAR-UPPERCASE, LIKE MYSELF, A VOICE THAT DEMANDS ATTENTION.

IT DOES NOT MATTER WHAT THEIR FONTS ARE.



I DID NOT NOTICE, AND IT DOES NOT MATTER.

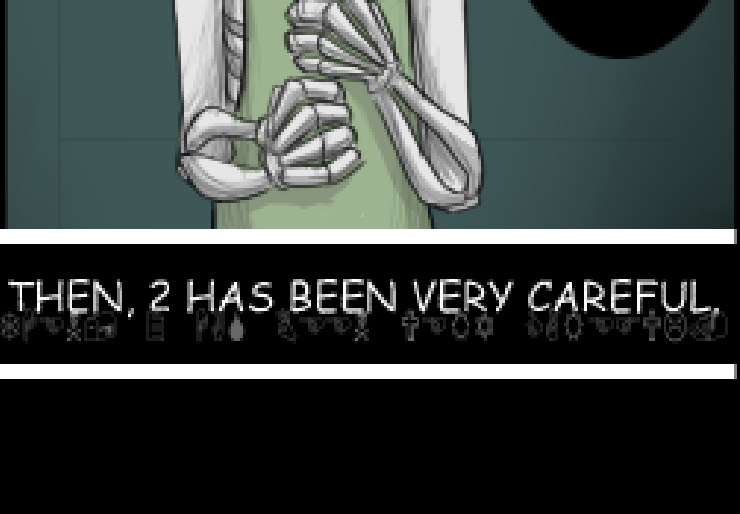
THEY CRY AND CARRY ON, WHENEVER I HAVE TO SEPARATE THEM, BUT I CANNOT RISK LEAVING THEM ALONE UNSUPERVISED UNTIL SUBJECT 2 CAN UNDERSTAND 1'S CONDITION.



WHAT'S THAT MEAN?

It means that if you hurt Subject 1 even a little, even by accident, he will die.

WHAT'S "DIE"?



It means he will turn to dust, and you will never see him again.

Stop crying, I'm talking to you.

SINCE THEN, 2 HAS BEEN VERY CAREFUL.

ENTRY NUMBER █:

SINCE I MOVED THEM INTO THE SAME ROOM, THEY ARE MUCH QUIETER AND EASIER TO WORK WITH. THEY CHATTER CONSTANTLY...

ENTRY NUMBER █:

WHENEVER I GO SEE THEM, THEY ARE HOLDING OR TOUCHING EACH OTHER. THEY ARE DESPERATE FOR PHYSICAL CONTACT... AT LEAST THEY WON'T ASK IT FROM ME.



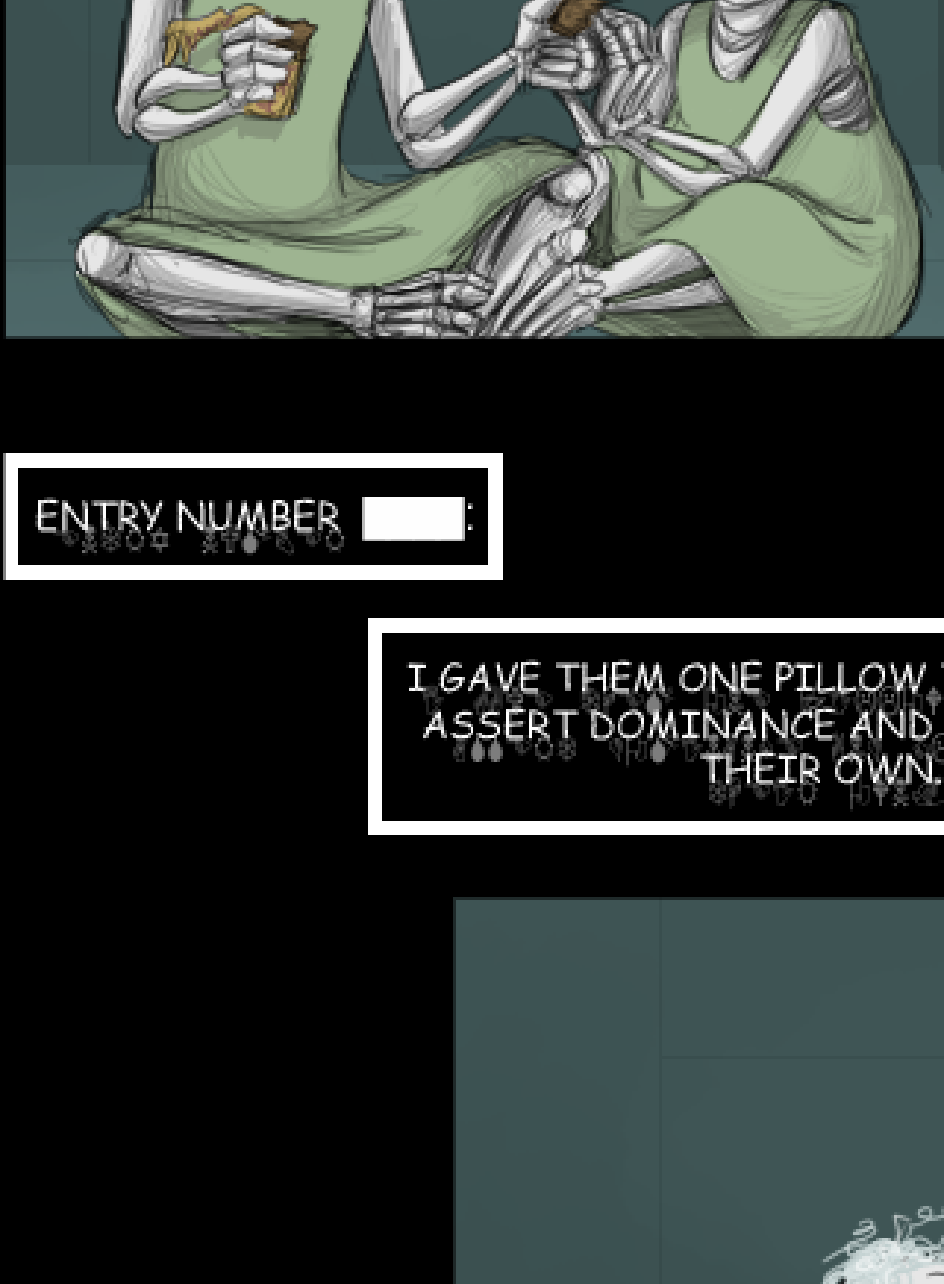
THEY EVEN SLEEP LIKE THAT. IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE IT'D BE COMFORTABLE.



SOMETIMES THEIR SOULS GLOW IN UNISON... I BELIEVE IT IS WHEN THEY ARE DREAMING.

ENTRY NUMBER █:

THEY ARE VORACIOUS EATERS, GIVEN THEIR RAPID DEVELOPMENT, IT MAKES SENSE.



OUT OF CURIOSITY, I GAVE THEM HALF A PORTION ONE NIGHT TO SEE WHAT THEY WOULD DO. THEY SPLIT THE DIFFERENCE.

I SUSPECT GIVEN ONLY A CRUMB, THEY'D FIND A WAY TO SHARE IT. I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY LEARNED TO BE SO SELFLESS WITH EACH OTHER, IT'S NOT A TRAIT I'D THINK WOULD BE INBORN.

ENTRY NUMBER █:

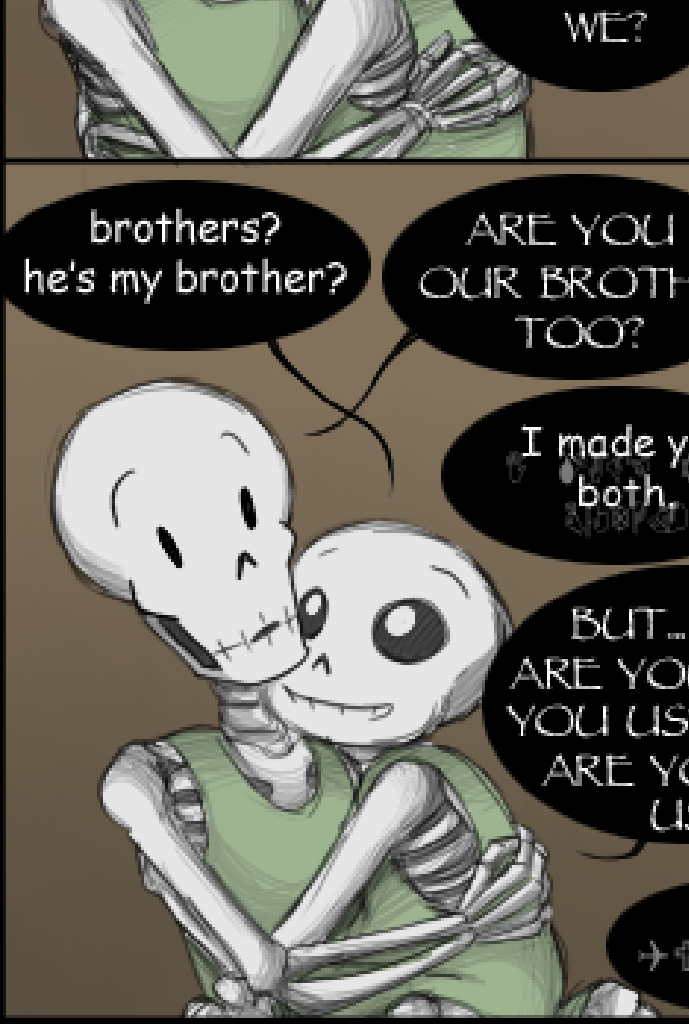
I GAVE THEM ONE PILLOW, TO SEE WHO'D ASSERT DOMINANCE AND CLAIM IT FOR THEIR OWN.



WHEN I CHECKED ON THEM, THEY'D TORN IT UP AND WERE PLAYING WITH THE STUFFING.

ENTRY NUMBER █:

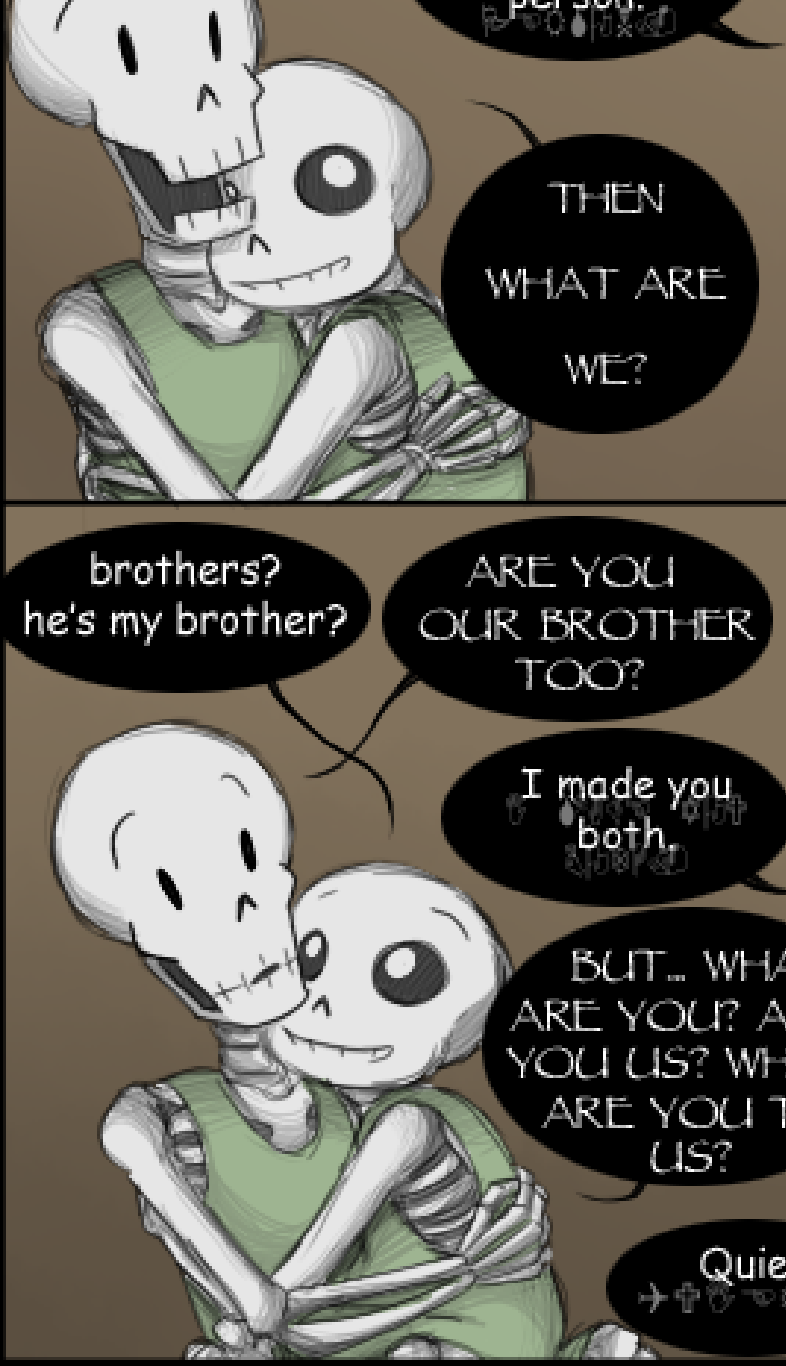
THEY NEVER STOP ASKING ME QUESTIONS. AT LEAST THEIR VOCABULARY IS GROWING.



What is...

- disappointing?
- alternating current?
- marrow?
- laser?
- SPECIMEN?
- ELECTRICITY?
- CALCIUM?
- FORBIDDEN?

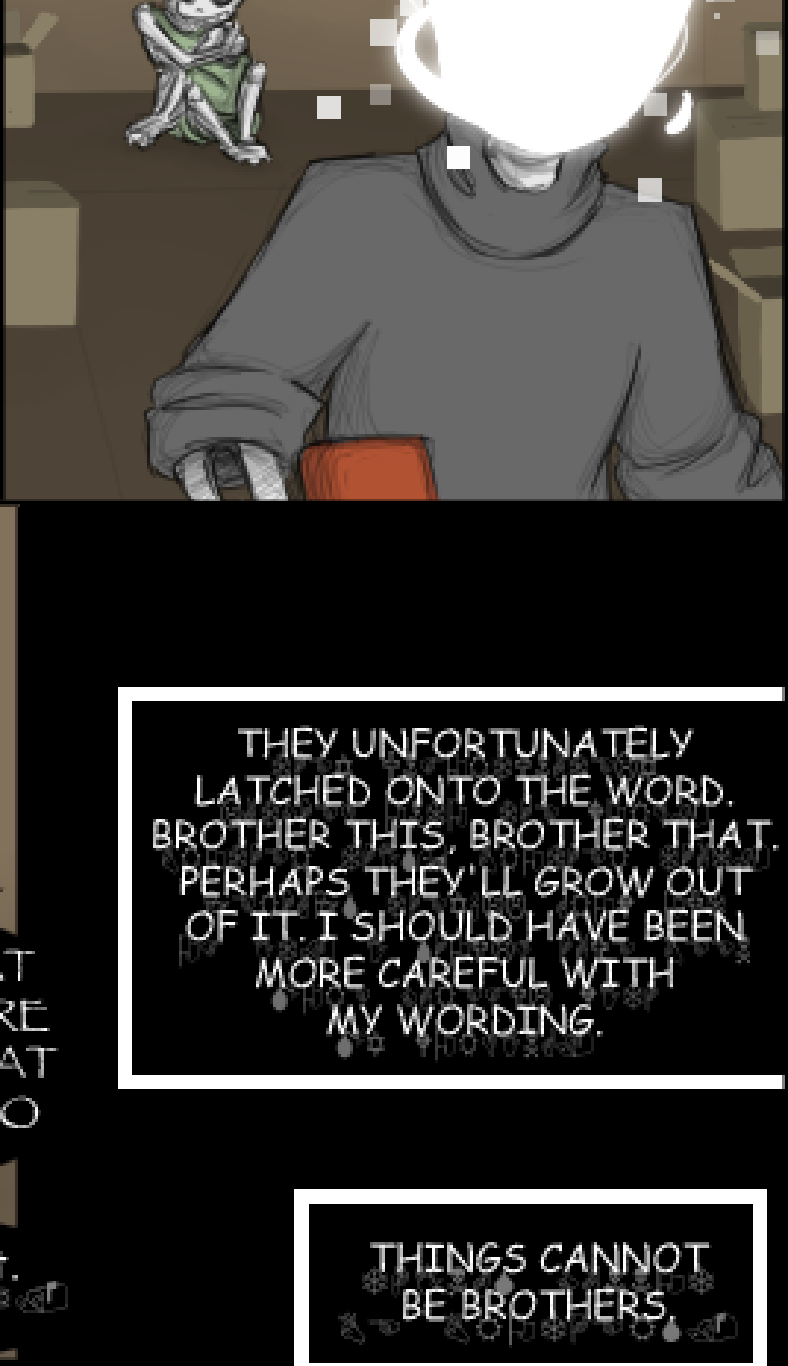
I DID MAKE AN ANNOYING ERROR ONCE WHILE I WAS DISTRACTED.



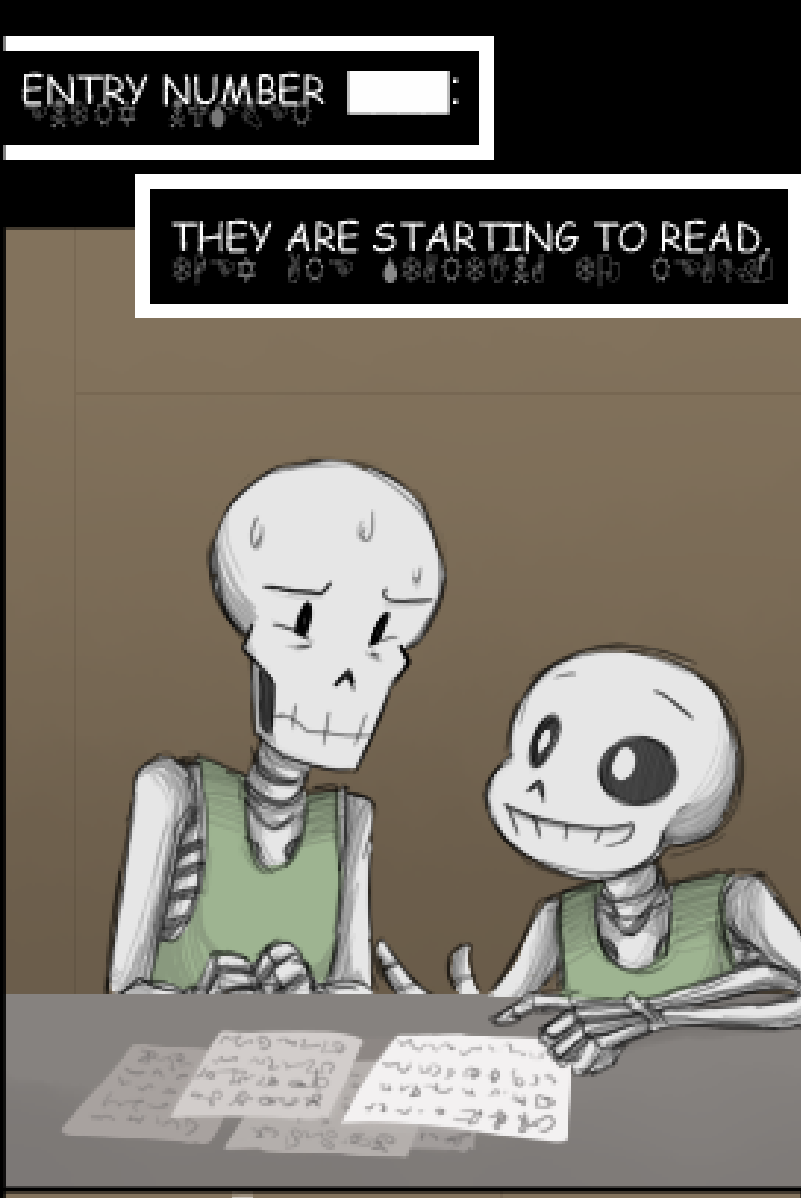
WHAT IS HE? WHAT ARE WE? IS HE... ME? AM I HIM?

No, you are not the same person.

THEN WHAT ARE WE?



You are things, Though I suppose technically one could say you were brothers.



brothers? he's my brother?

ARE YOU OUR BROTHER TOO?

I made you both.

BUT... WHAT ARE YOU? ARE YOU US? WHAT ARE YOU TO US?

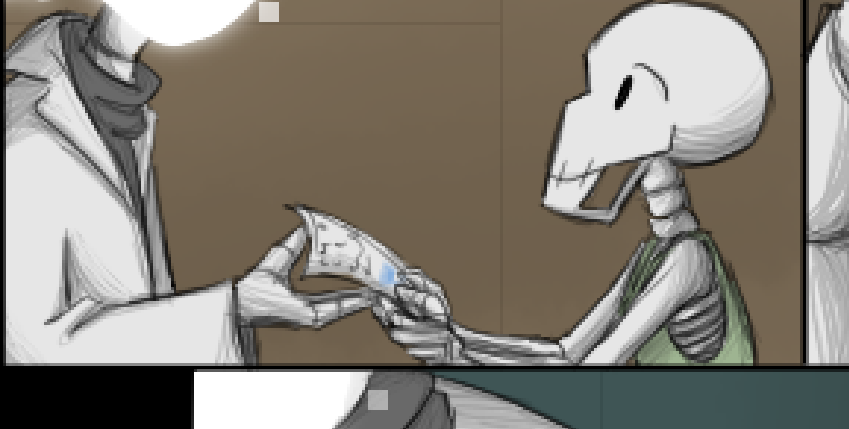
Quiet.

THEY UNFORTUNATELY LATCHED ONTO THE WORD, BROTHER THIS, BROTHER THAT. PERHAPS THEY'LL GROW OUT OF IT. I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE CAREFUL WITH MY WORDING.

THINGS CANNOT BE BROTHERS

ENTRY NUMBER █:

THEY ARE STARTING TO READ.

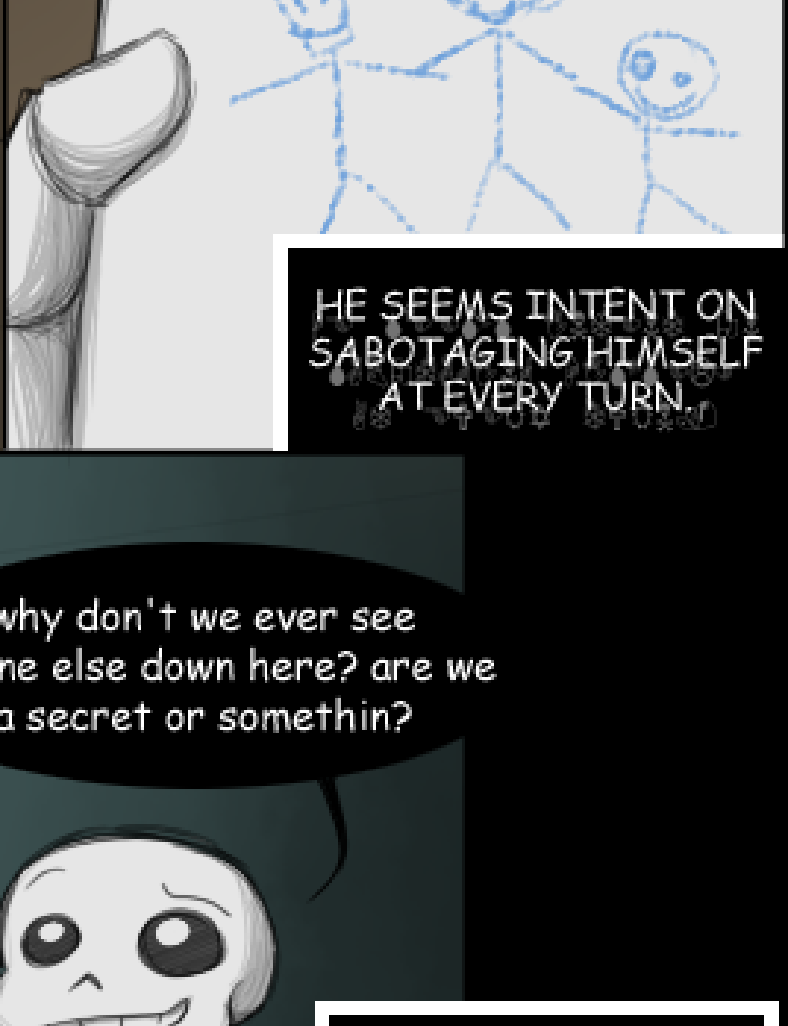


I'M BEING CAREFUL ABOUT WHAT I GIVE THEM... I DON'T WANT THEM GETTING IDEAS ABOUT THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

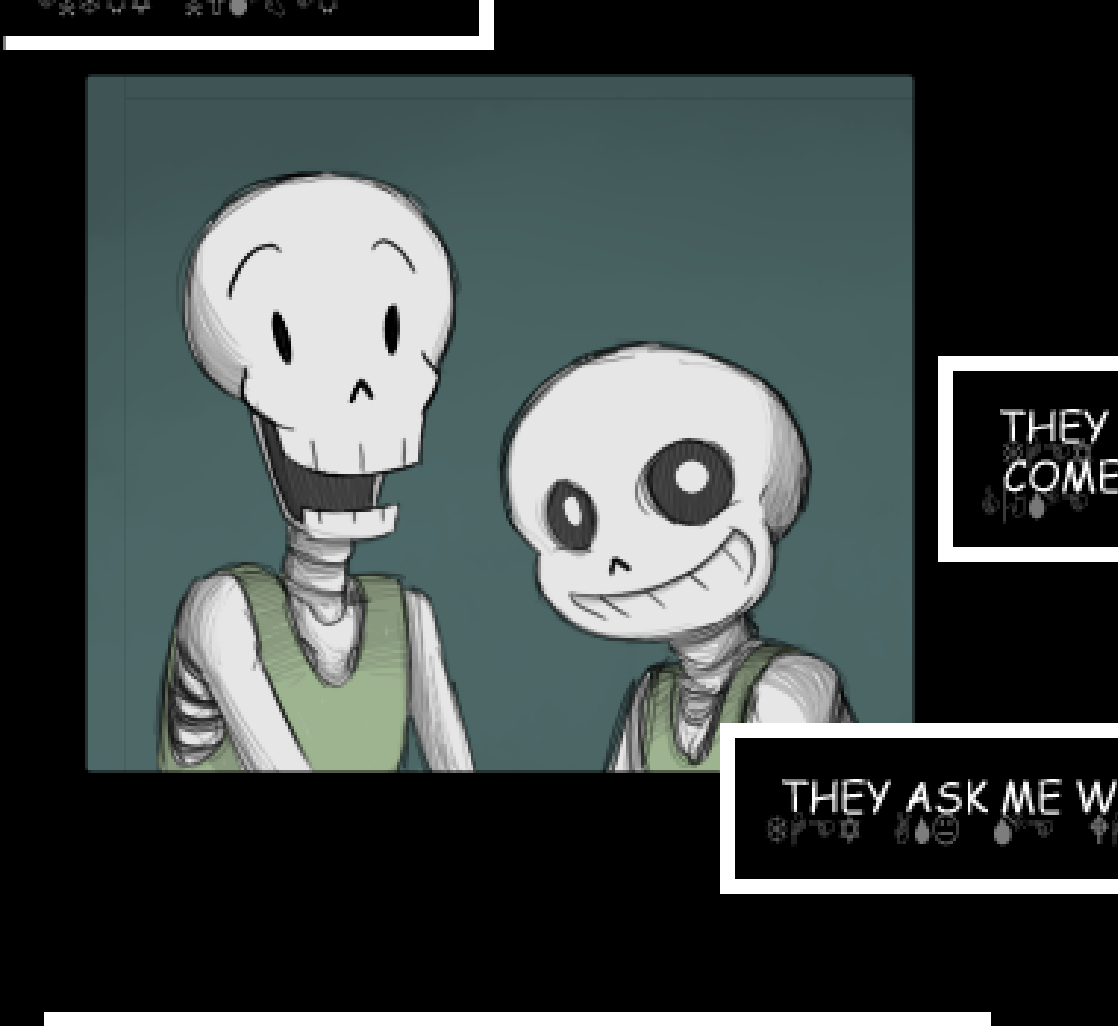
SUBJECT 1 IS A FAST LEARNER... 2 LESS SO. HE STRUGGLES WITH READING, AND MY HOPE IS THAT HE INHERITED MY IT'S A PHYSICAL PROBLEM WITH HIS EYES AND NOT A MENTAL ONE, BAD EYES CAN BE FIXED, EVEN WITH 1'S HELP, HE HAS DIFFICULTY.



HE INTERPRETS EVEN THE CLEAREST DIRECTIONS IN STRANGE WAYS.



HE SEEMS INTENT ON SABOTAGING HIMSELF AT EVERY TURN.

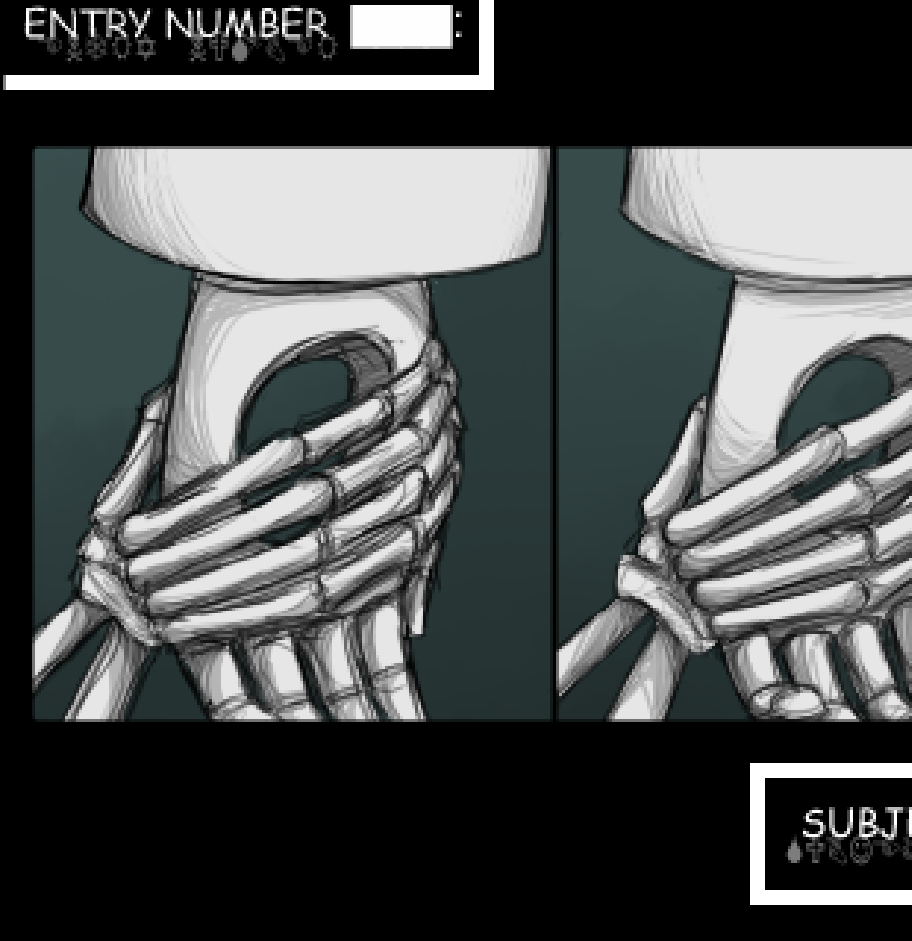


1, AT LEAST, SEEMS VERY CLEVER.

why don't we ever see anyone else down here? are we a secret or somethin'?

PERHAPS TOO MUCH SO FOR HIS OWN GOOD AT TIMES.

ENTRY NUMBER █:



THEY SMILE WHEN I COME TO SEE THEM.

THEY ASK ME WHAT I DO OUTSIDE.

THEY ASK ME IF THEY CAN GO OUTSIDE.

ENTRY NUMBER █:



SUBJECT 2 TRIED TO HOLD MY HAND.

ENTRY NUMBER █:

I'VE MADE A HUGE MISTAKE.



Gaster! Are you alright??

You passed out...

Unh...
I'm alright...
I must have gotten dizzy

Gaster, I'm really starting to worry about you. You're working too hard, it's taking a toll on your health. Whatever it is can't be that important...

I'm very close to a breakthrough, I'm sure of it.
I'm going to get us all out of here, you'll see.
I'm alright, I just need more time.

Look at your poor hands...

they look worse every time I see them.

Are they giving you trouble? I know you said it was an accident, but...

I'm not sure I believe you.

Please, I've asked that we not talk about this

I understand that you want to get us out of here, but it's not worth tearing yourself to pieces.

When the time comes and the last soul falls, I will break the barrier and do what has to be done.

This isn't your burden to bear.

That is my duty, as king.

But my duty is also to my people, and my friends, and your wellbeing is more important to me than anything you're working on.

I don't want you hurting yourself, not for any reason. I can't lose you too.

Stop pushing yourself so hard.
It's not your responsibility.

Take care of yourself, and I will take care of the barrier.

Come on... some tea will help you relax.
You can go back to work after you unwind a little, alright?

...If you insist.

You've always been too gentle, and too kind.
You don't have the same darkness inside that I have.

If anyone should make such sacrifices, it will be me.
I will get us out of here, no matter what the cost.
And you will never have to kill anyone again.
I'll make sure of it.

I'VE WAITED TOO LONG.

THE PROJECT IS IN DANGER.

MY OBJECTIVITY HAS-

IS AT RISK OF BEING COMPROMISED.

I CANNOT AFFORD ANY FURTHER DELAY.

THEY ARE STILL CHILDLIKE, BUT NO MORE TIME CAN BE WASTED. EVEN THIS, IN THE END, WAS A FOOLISH DIVERSION.

IT DOES NOT MATTER IF THEY CAN UNDERSTAND. IT DOES NOT MATTER WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE, OR IF THEY CAN THINK, OR WHAT THEY FEEL.

THIS IS NOT WHAT I MADE THEM FOR.

I NEED TO REGAIN MY FOCUS.

I NEED TO REGAIN CONTROL.

I NEED TO REMEMBER WHY I'M DOING THIS.

WHY DON'T MY HANDS LOOK LIKE YOURS?

You and Subject 1 don't look alike, do you?

I GUESS NOT...

I KNEW WHEN I BEGAN WHAT THIS WOULD ENTAIL.

I KNEW WHAT I'D HAVE TO DO.

I KNEW THERE'D BE NO GOING BACK.

NO FORGIVENESS.

DECISIONS WERE MADE ALL FOR THIS GREATER PURPOSE, TO CREATE THESE LIVING TOOLS.

TO EVEN CONSIDER...

SUCH SELFISH SENTIMENTALITY GETS PEOPLE KILLED.

THERE IS ONLY ONE CHOICE.

THERE IS ONLY ONE CHOICE.

I TOLD MYSELF I'D MAKE WHATEVER SACRIFICES NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE MY GOALS.

I'M NOT GOING BACK ON MY WORD.

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO THIS.

WHO WILL DO THIS?

THERE ARE NO OTHER OPTIONS.

I'M GOING TO GET US ALL OUT OF HERE.

NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES.

THE GREATEST TEST OF MY STRENGTH.

I AM DETERMINED.

Can you move?

N... NO.

IT...

IT'S HARD TO BREATHE...

L...

I'M SCARED.

...Good.

You should be scared of me.

I WILL NOT FAIL.

IT IS DONE.

THEY ASKED ME, BEGGED ME,
SCREAMED AT ME TO STOP

WHEN I DID NOT, THEY
CALLED OUT FOR THEIR
"BROTHER" TO SAVE THEM.

WHEN THEY DID NOT,

THEY CALLED OUT FOR
SOMEONE, ANYONE
TO HELP THEM.

BUT NOBODY CAME.

A LESSON WE ALL MUST
LEARN AT SOME POINT.

IT IS DONE, AND I MUST
ADMIT, A PART OF ME IS
CURIOUS NOW WHAT
THEY WILL DO. THEIR
LIMITED WORLDVIEW MUST
BE COMPLETELY SHATTERED.

WHAT WILL THEY BUILD
OUT OF THE PIECES?

CAN THEY EVEN UNDERSTAND
WHAT JUST HAPPENED TO THEM?

HOW WILL THEY ADAPT TO
THIS NEW PARADIGM?

WHAT WILL CHANGE?

NGH!! MY HAND HURTS,
I CAN'T GET IT OFF- I HATE
IT! I HATE IT, WHY DID
HE DO THIS TO US???

i knew it, i knew it,
i knew we shouldn't- i knew
we couldn't trust
him-

WHAT DID WE DO
WRONG??? I DON'T
UNDERSTAND, WE...
WE WERE GOOD,
WEREN'T WE?

it wasn't us, WE didn't
do anything wrong, it was
HIM, he wanted to-
to do this to us-

MAYBE...
MAYBE HE WAS
WORRIED WE'D GET
LOST, OR,

OR, THEY'RE
MAGIC AND WILL
PROTECT US
FROM SOME
THING, OR-

are you
serious?! how can
you even say that?!
how long were you
screaming while
he drilled that
into you?!

MAYBE HE
HAD TO DO IT
THAT WAY!!

yeah, but not for
the reason you think.
we're just things to
him... he's always
said that.

he doesn't care about
us- he's never cared about
us, he can do whatever he
wants to us, and who's
going to stop him?

no one even knows
we're down here,
and it's not like we
can get out-

...god, oh my
god...

what is he
going to do
to us?

this is just the
beginning, isn't it?

this isn't going
to stop, it's just
it's just going
to get worse-

oh
god-

NO...
NO, NO, HE WON'T!
HE WON'T, HE'S NOT
LIKE THAT! HE'S
NOT- HE'S NOT
GOING TO-

look at your hand,
for god's sake!! don't you
get what's going on here?!
don't you get what we
ARE to him??

THAT'S NOT-
THAT'S NOT WHAT'S
GOING TO HAPPEN-
HE'S NOT GOING
TO HURT US
ANYMORE!

are you JOKING?!? what
do you think just happened!!!
what on earth do you think
is going to make him STOP???

HE'S
NOT- HE'S NOT
GOING TO HURT US
ANYMORE, I KNOW IT!
I KNOW IT, HE HELPED
ME ONCE, HE'S NOT
A BAD PERSON,
HE'S-

not a bad person
except for *these*. open your
eyes!! can't you tell, he's
not going to stop, why
would he?

what has he
ever done for us
except-

HE'S NOT
GOING TO-

HE'S NOT-

HE'S NOT-

HE'S-

hey shhh, shh
calm down, come
on. deep breaths,
okay?

i'm scared
too, alright? but
we're both okay.

i'll figure
something out,
don't worry.
calm down.

IT CAN'T,
HE CAN'T...

THERE HAS
TO BE GOOD IN
HIM,

shhhh, shhhhhh.
breathe, okay? just
try to breathe.

HE HAS TO
STOP, HE HAS
TO STOP,

HE HAS TO,
HE... HE...

IT... IT WON'T
GET ANY WORSE THAN
THIS...

RIGHT...?

Why did you do that to him?
He never did anything to you. He
didn't deserve that.

Does only his suffering matter to you?
Interesting.

us? why are you doing this to us?



CALL:
ALPHYS

7441phys.chem.



Scanning for

al signature...

=^,^=



Yes, Dr. Al
bipbipbipbipbip



is it really a



OH, YAY!
BUT... HOW?

YEAH,

part.

...
HAND ON IT!

ok... mmph!



HAVE
THE
MOST
ITTY
BITTY
HANDS.



Subject 1, but your frailty makes it difficult. So



the next time you
run from me.



ENTRY NUMBER

I HAVE A THEORY.

BOTH SUBJECTS GLOW NATURALLY
AND POWERFULLY - UNUSUALLY SO
FOR OUR SPECIES.

ADMITTEDLY...

MANY OF US
LEFT TO COMPARE

THEIR SOULS HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT, BUT IT NEEDS PROPER INVESTIGATION.

ARE LARGE, AND
THE AURA OF HIS
GLOW IS VERY
STRONG.

CANDIDATE. IF THE HEALING TINGE I SENSED IS TRULY PRESENT, AND CAN BE REPLICATED OR EVEN ENHANCED

ENTRY NUMBER

© 2000

1.6 IS MORE EFFECTIVE THAN ANTICRATER

Page 10 of 10

BLINDNESS

I SUPPOSE
NOW WE'RE A
MATCHING SET

KNOWLEDGE ALWAYS COMES
AT A PRICE. SOMETIMES THAT
IS THE NATURE OF THINGS -
ONE CANNOT ALWAYS EXPECT
PERFECT ANSWERS.

I WAS NOT ABLE TO FIND AND ISOLATE
THE HEALING ASPECT AS I'D HOPED,
BUT I BELIEVE I MAY INSTEAD BE ONTO

CAREFULLY WHILE HE RECOVERS...
AND IF I'M CORRECT, WELL IT
COULD CHANGE EVERYTHING.
AS FOR THE DAMAGE...

SKELETON'S EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING
WITHOUT FULL ACCESS TO THE
ABILITY, 1-5 MAY DEVELOP
PROBLEMS.

WELL, THAT'S WHY I MADE TWO OF THEM.



Stay still.

ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME? YOU BROKE HIS EYE! YOU BROKE MY BROTHER'S EYE! HE NEEDED THAT TO GLOW!

(sigh)

Yes, that was unfortunate. He's weaker than I thought.

HOW COULD YOU?? HOW COULD YOU, HE NEEDED THAT EYE!!

He'll just have to deal with it.

The damage is already done, it's too late now.

WHY??

WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM??

The same thing I'm going to do to you.

Stop squirming, you do not want to be out of alignment when the emitter is on.

Then we'll have just three between us all, I suppose.

But I don't intend to make the same mistake again. I've adjusted the output, and you're much stronger than Subject 1. I think this time, I'm going to make a breakthrough.

NO! NO, DON'T!! DON'T!! PLEASE, STOP!!

What did I say about squirming?

PLEASE, DON'T!! I NEED MY EYES! I NEED BOTH OF THEM. I NEED THEM SO I CAN GLOW FOR HIM!

PLEASE!! PLEASE, I HAVE TO!! I HAVE TO!!

I already told you, I have no intention of blinding you.

In fact, quite the opposite. But if you don't follow my directions very carefully,

you may blind yourself regardless. Do you understand?

PLEASE...

PLEASE, DON'T, HE NEEDS ME TO...

Now, eye sockets forward. Don't move.

HE NEEDS ME...

And no matter what you do,

don't blink.

Are you
awake?

UNGH... WHAT
HAPPENED? WHY CAN'T
I SEE...?

The magic overflowed
into your other socket
during the procedure.



It was a rather
spectacular light
show, actually.

D... DOES
THAT MEAN-

You are not blind,
if that's what you're
afraid of.

You can't see
because of the
bandages.

It will probably take
a day or two for you
to recover.

DOES... THAT MEAN I CAN
STILL GLOW...?

...Yes, it shouldn't
have affected that
ability in any way.

THEN... WHAT DID
YOU DO TO ME?

When the bandages are off,
and your eyes have healed...

...you will see.

SEE...? YOU
MEAN, BECAUSE
MY EYES WILL
BE OPEN?

In a sense.
Come on.

If you're awake,
then you can go back to
your cell. Subject 1 can keep
an eye on you. I have to get
back to work.

UH... YOU AREN'T
GOING TO CARRY ME?

BECAUSE,
I CAN'T REALLY
SEE...

...

I've...

expended a lot of
magical energy lately.
I'm tired.

You can walk.

UM...

Here, Hold
on to m-

this.

YOU SAID,
BEFORE, THAT YOU WEREN'T
GOING TO MAKE THE SAME
MISTAKE AGAIN.

Yes, and I did not.
You will be able to
see just fine.

...CAN
I ASK YOU
SOMETHING?

BUT, THAT MEANS
YOU HURT MY BROTHER
BY MISTAKE. DOESN'T
IT? THAT YOU DIDN'T
MEAN TO?

...Breaking his
eye was not in my
plans, no.

SO... YOU
DIDN'T WANT
TO HURT HIM.

...Subject 1 is too
delicate to hurt
carelessly.

SO, DOES THAT
MEAN YOU WON'T HURT
US ANYMORE?

OH, THAT'S
SUCH A RELIEF!
I KNEW-

I will
do

what I have to.

...And what
people need
me to.

If that
requires hurting
either of you,
then so be it.

I will see
this through
to the end.

It's already
too late to turn back.

BUT...

ISN'T THERE
SOME OTHER WAY?
MAYBE WE CAN
HELP YOU...

IT DOESN'T
HAVE TO BE
LIKE THIS.
YOU DON'T
HAVE TO BE
LIKE THIS.

If you want to
help me, you will be
silent and obedient.

...I don't have
time for this.

DO YOU...

HATE US?

...I don't feel
anything for you.

...I'M GOING TO TELL
MY BROTHER YOU DID
IT BY ACCIDENT.

I'M GOING TO
TELL HIM YOU DIDN'T
MEAN TO HURT HIM.

...Tell him whatever
you like. Come on.

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...



WHAT DO YOU THINK HE MEANT? HE SAID 'SEE' LIKE IT MEANT SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST NORMAL SEEING.

i dunno... he didn't say that to me.

HE SAID HE'D FIXED THE... UH, LASER THING, SINCE THE LAST TIME WHEN HE... UH, DID YOU. DID HE TELL YOU WHAT HE WAS DOING?

...i don't really remember. i passed out pretty fast.

OH.

BUT, UH... HE SAID I COULD STILL GLOW! SO, YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.

that's not what i'm worried about.

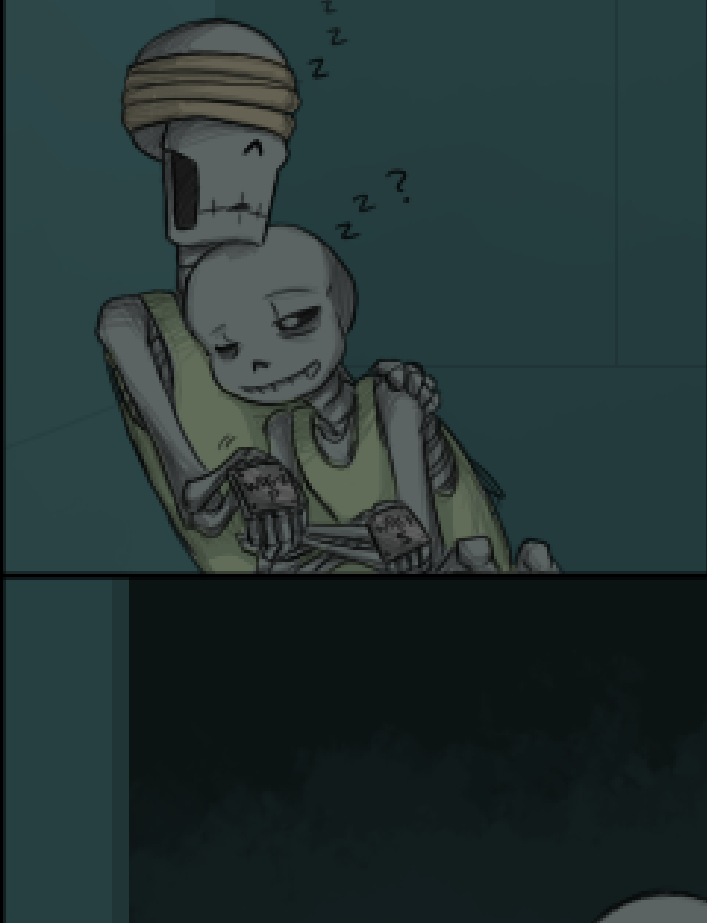
OH.

UH, HE SAID I'M NOT BLIND EITHER! HE'S GOING TO TAKE THEM OFF IN A FEW DAYS! I'M FINE!

that's not it either.

?

...dont worry about it. it's probably nothing.



bro! bro, wake up! wake up!!!

MNNH

wake up! wake up, i saw something!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

i saw something! i saw something outside the beams!

MMPH, WHAT'D YOU SEE?

i saw...

i think i saw us.

US?

yeah, but... we looked different.

DIFFERENT? WHAT DO YOU MEAN? DIFFERENT HOW?

...different.

CAN YOU STILL SEE US? MAYBE HE PUT A MIRROR THERE. MAYBE HE'S TESTING US.

no... it's gone now. i just saw it for a second.

THAT'S WEIRD... DO YOU THINK THAT'S WHAT HE MEANT ABOUT SEEING?

...is that what he meant...?

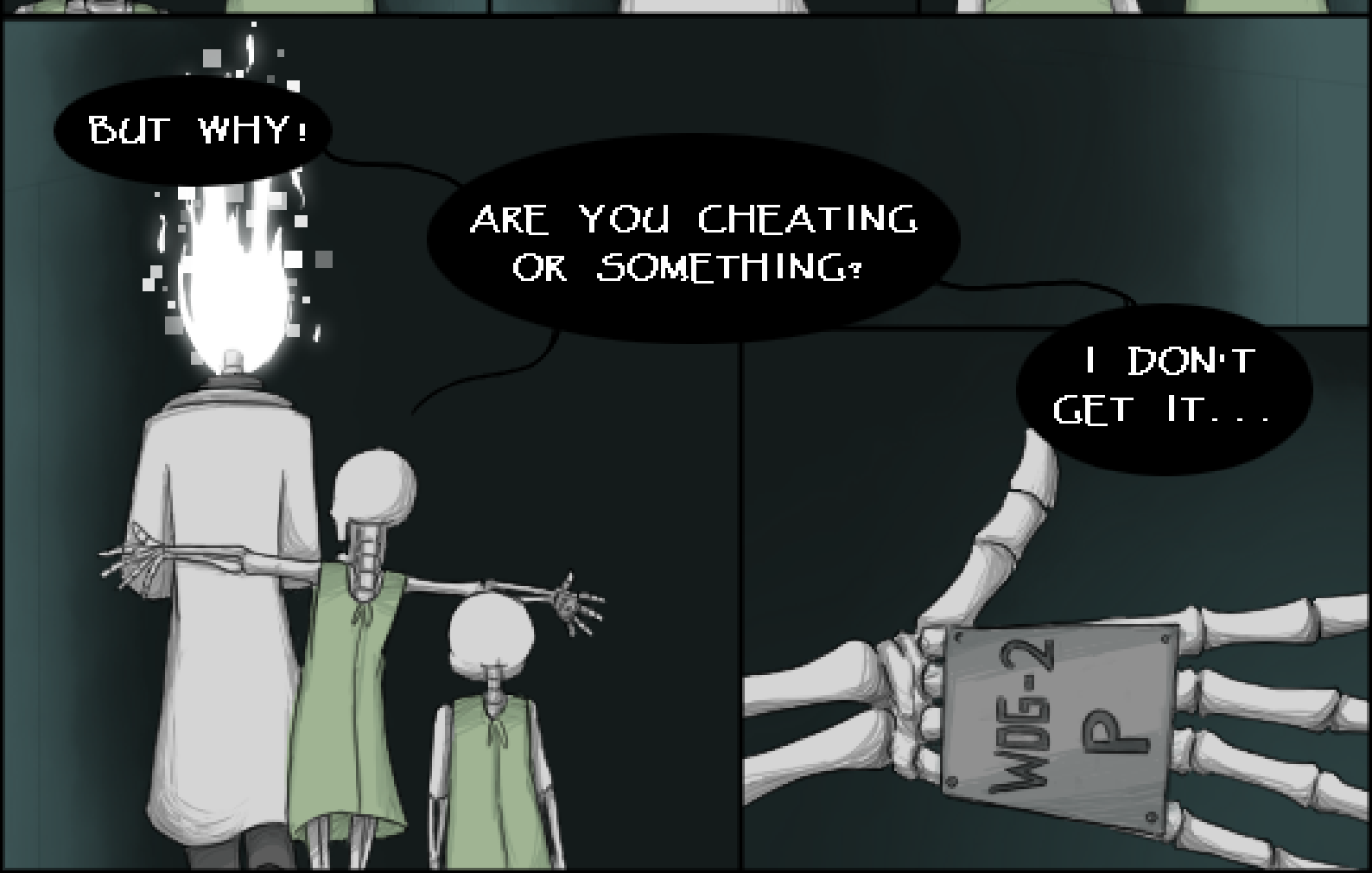
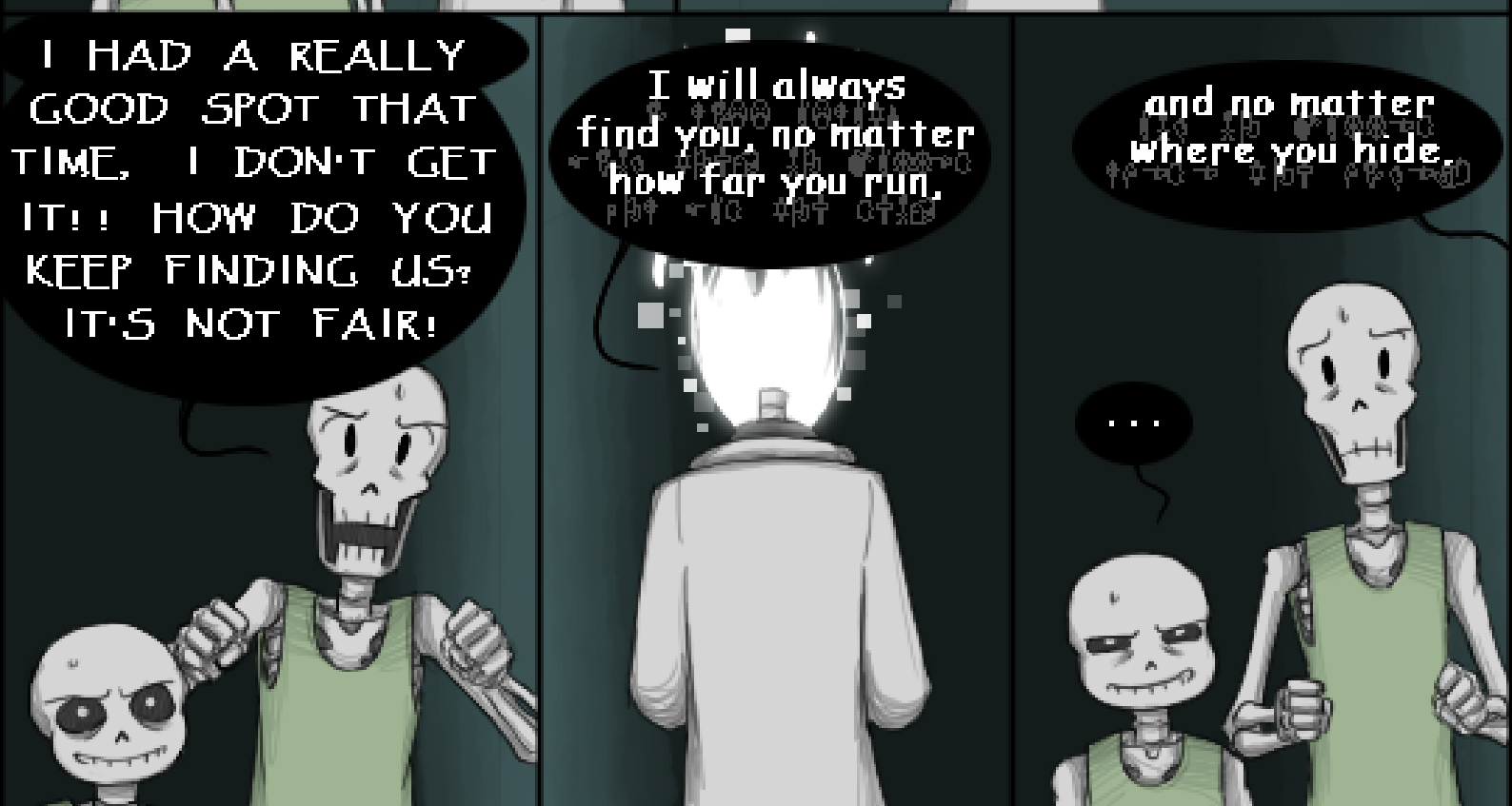
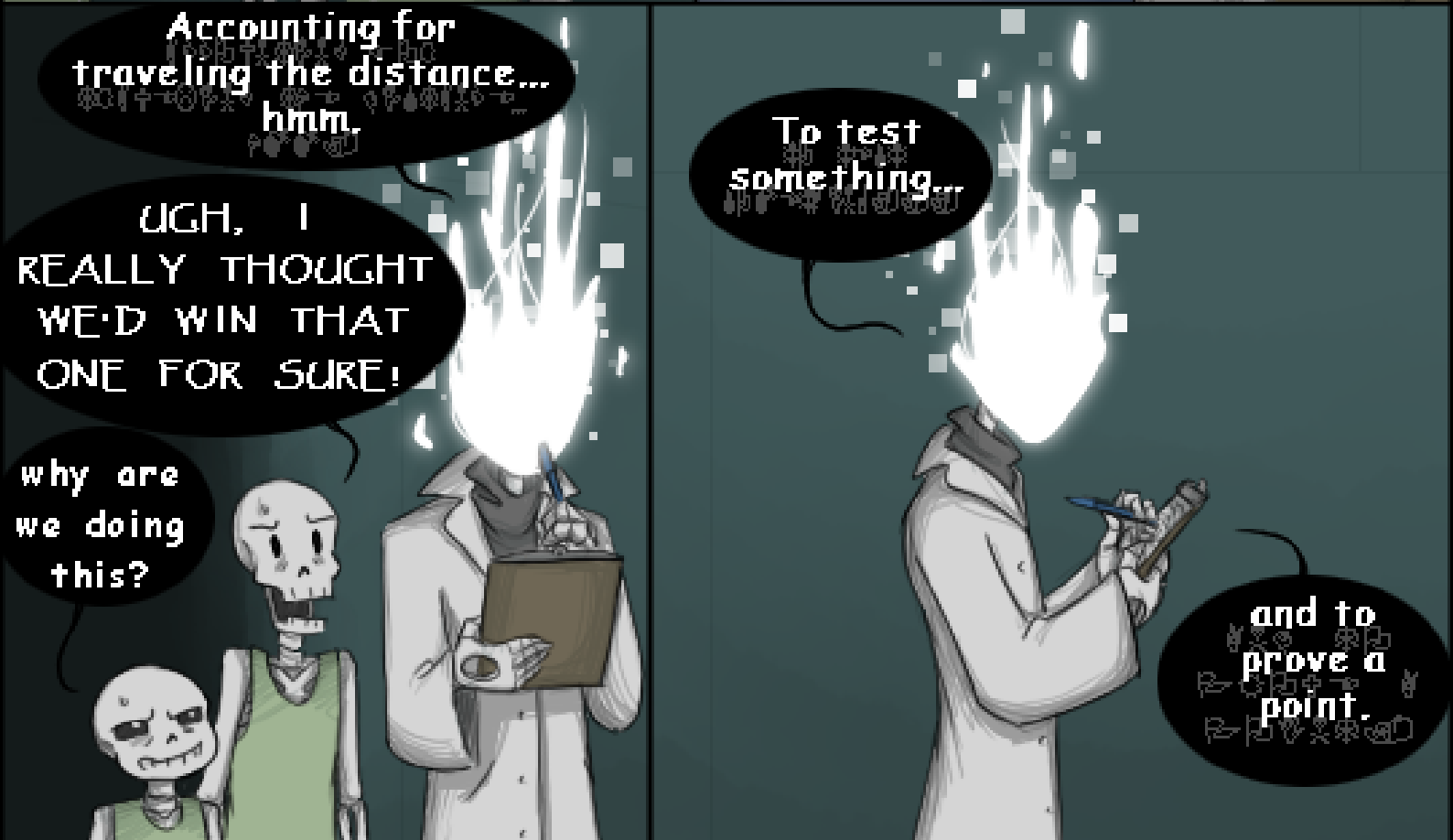
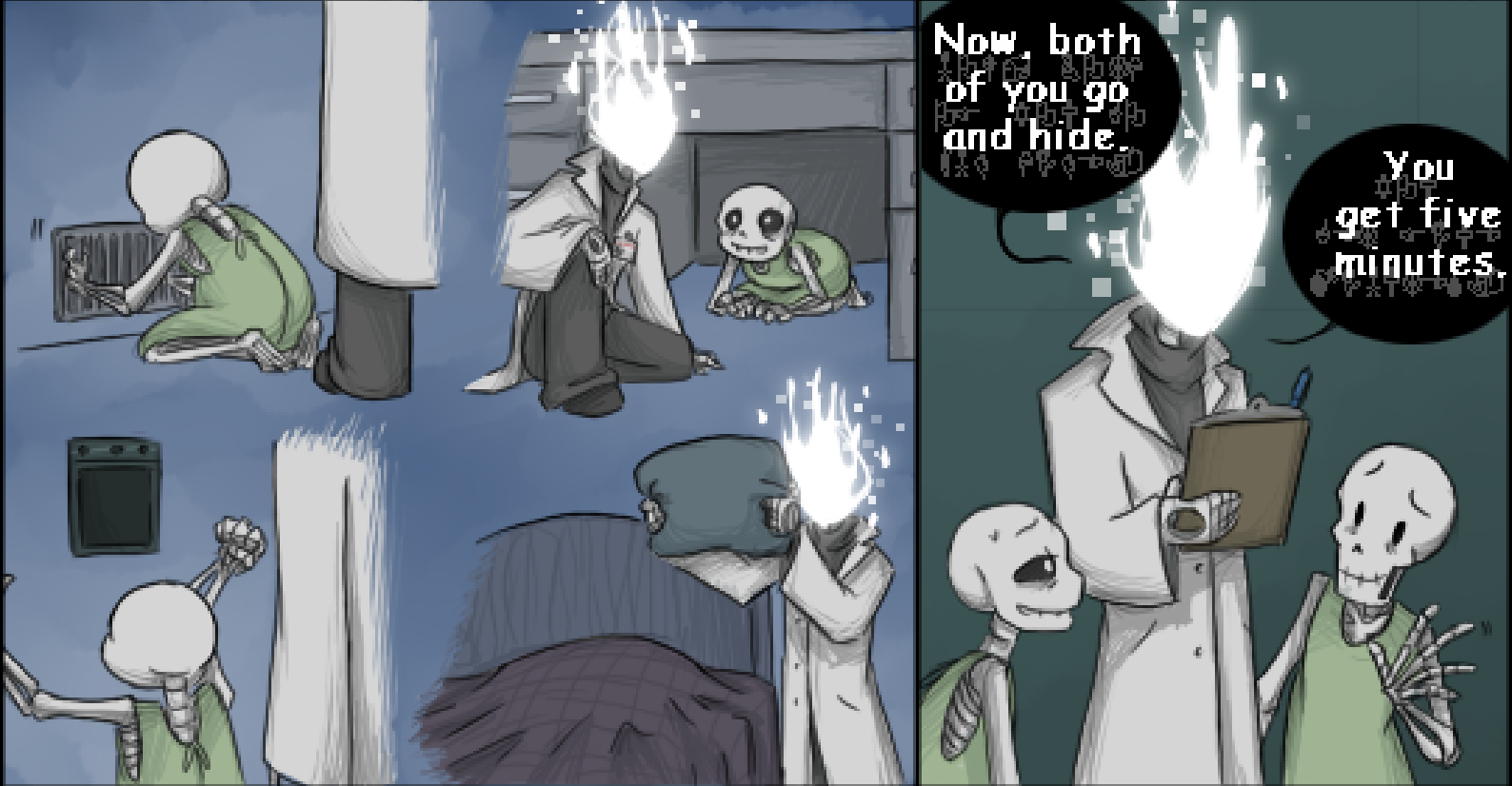
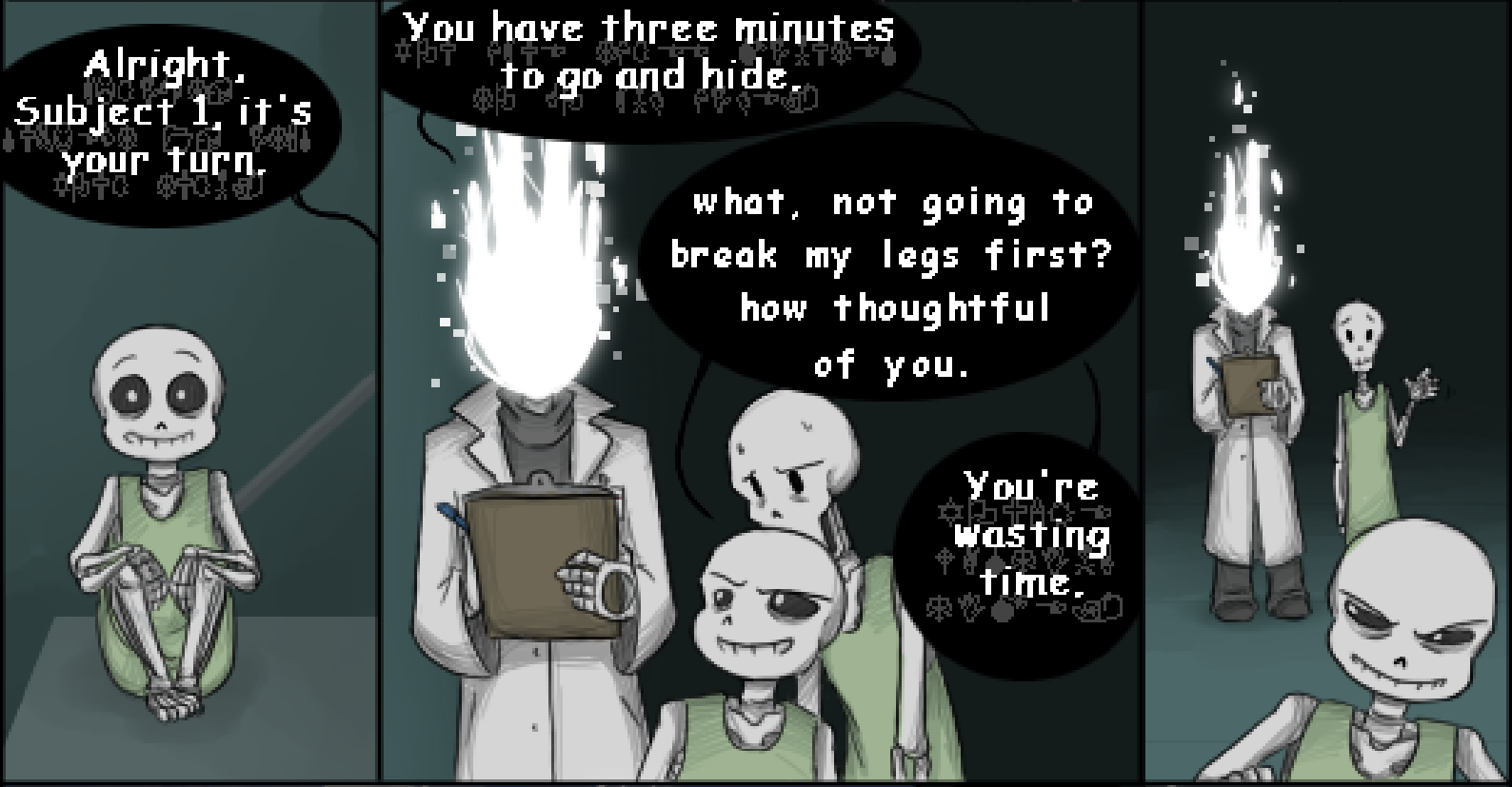
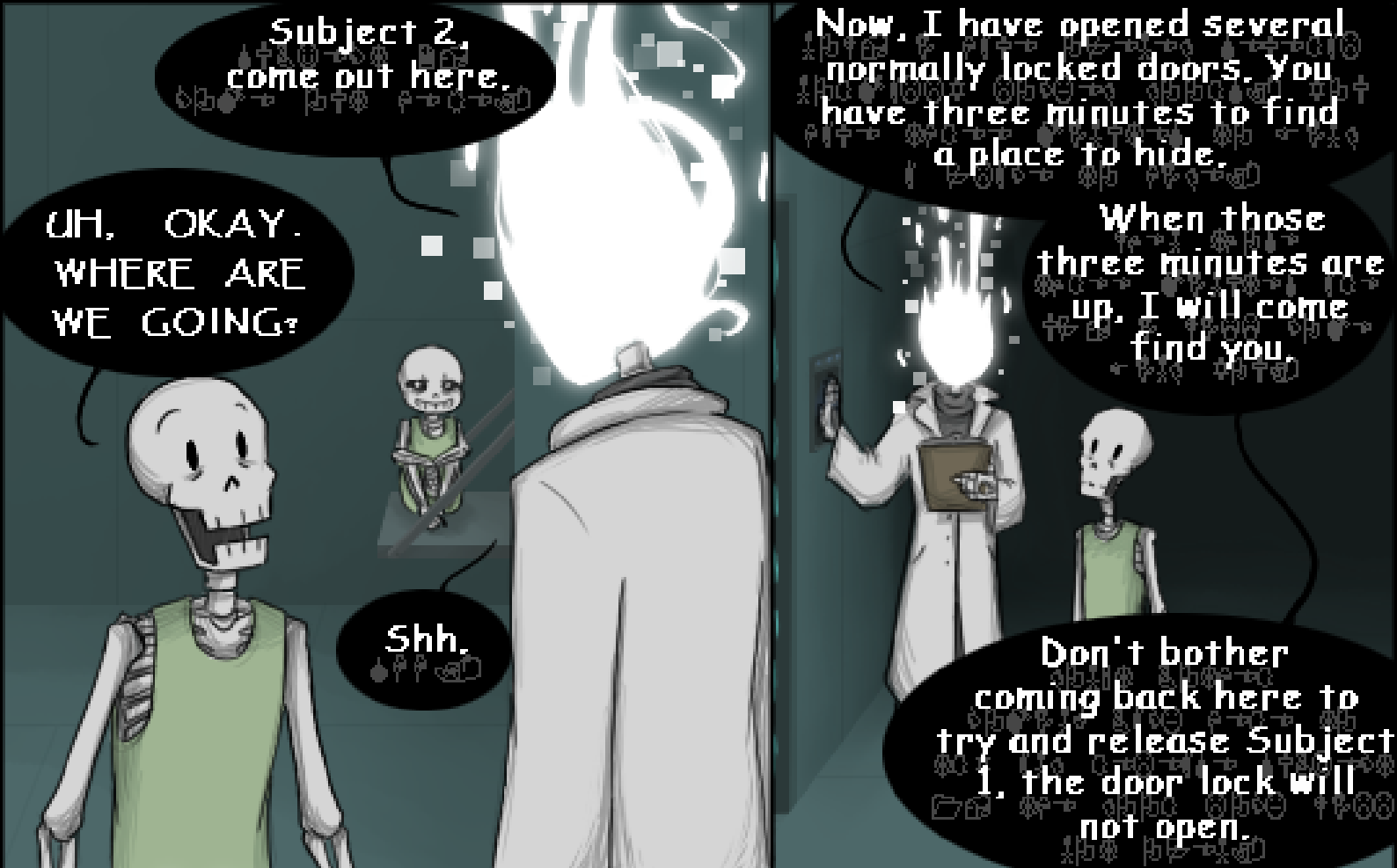
but, what does that mean...?

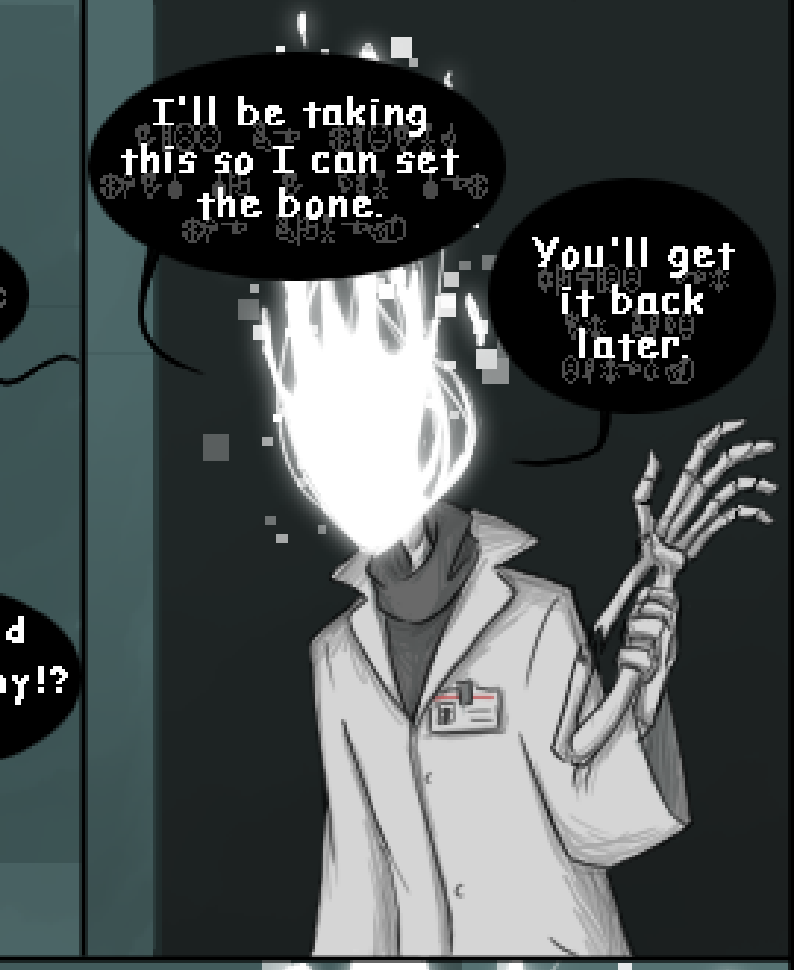
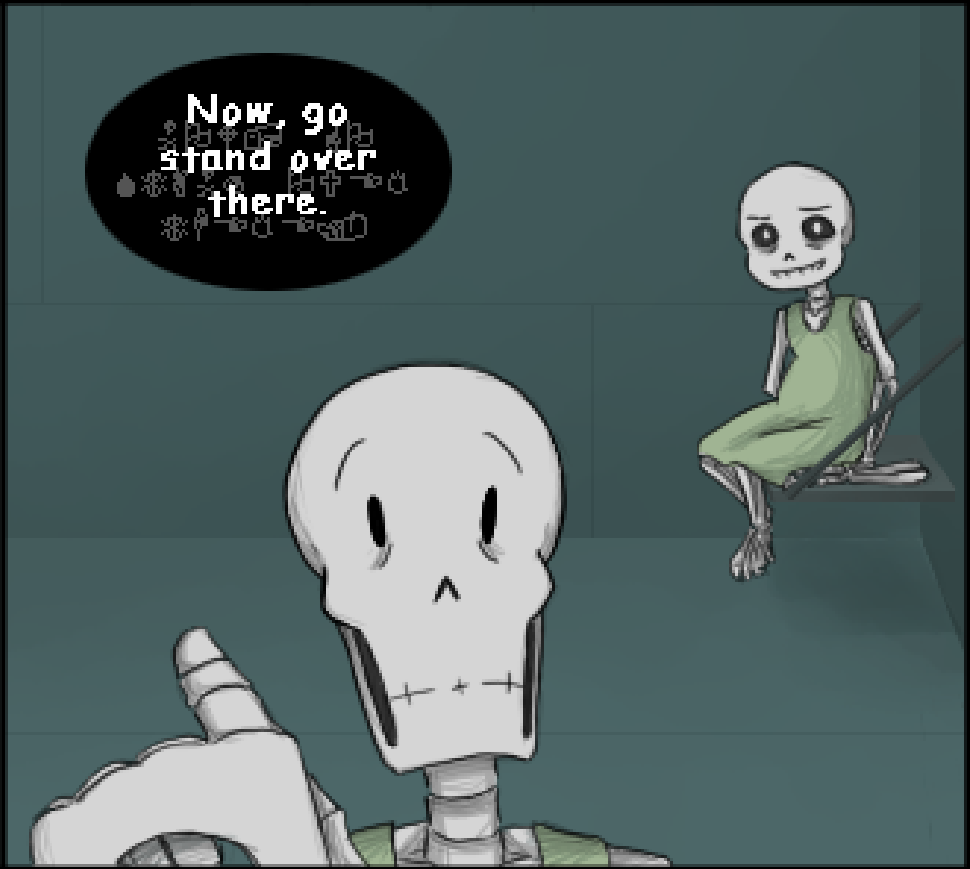
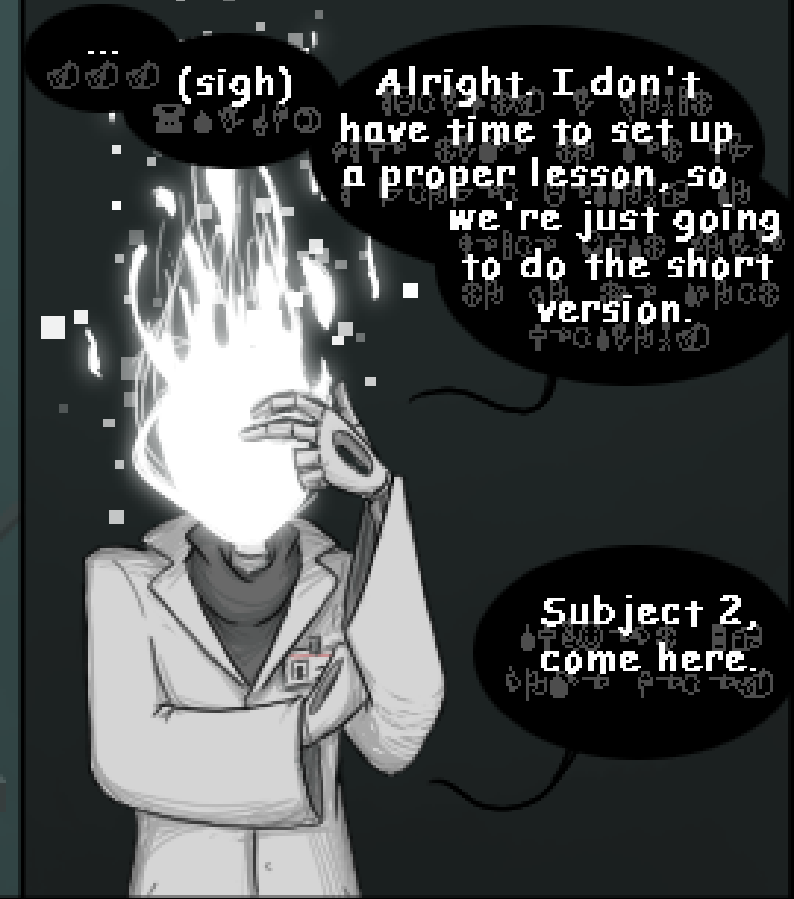
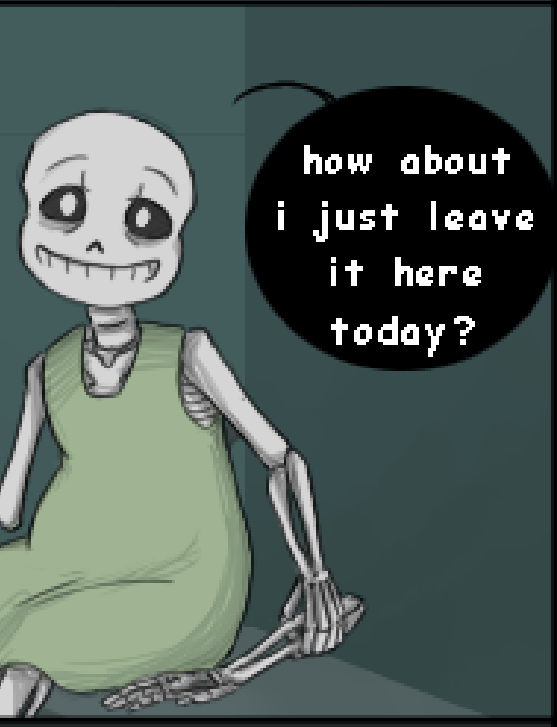
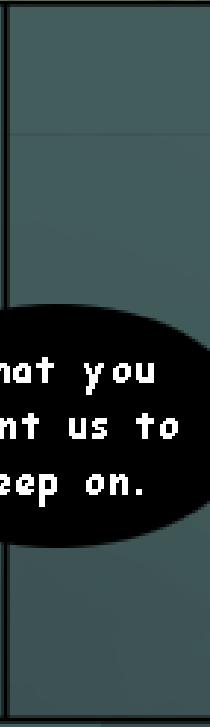
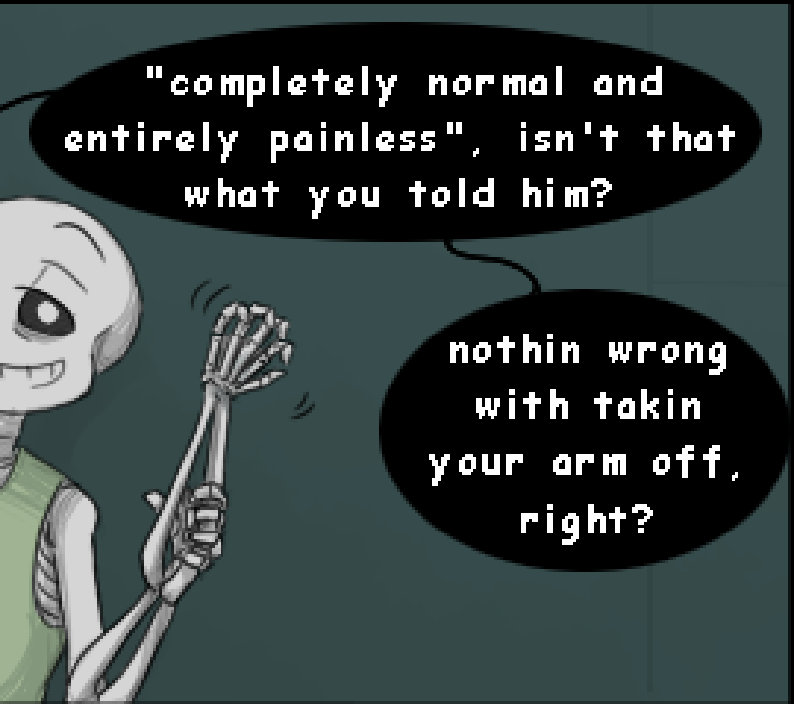
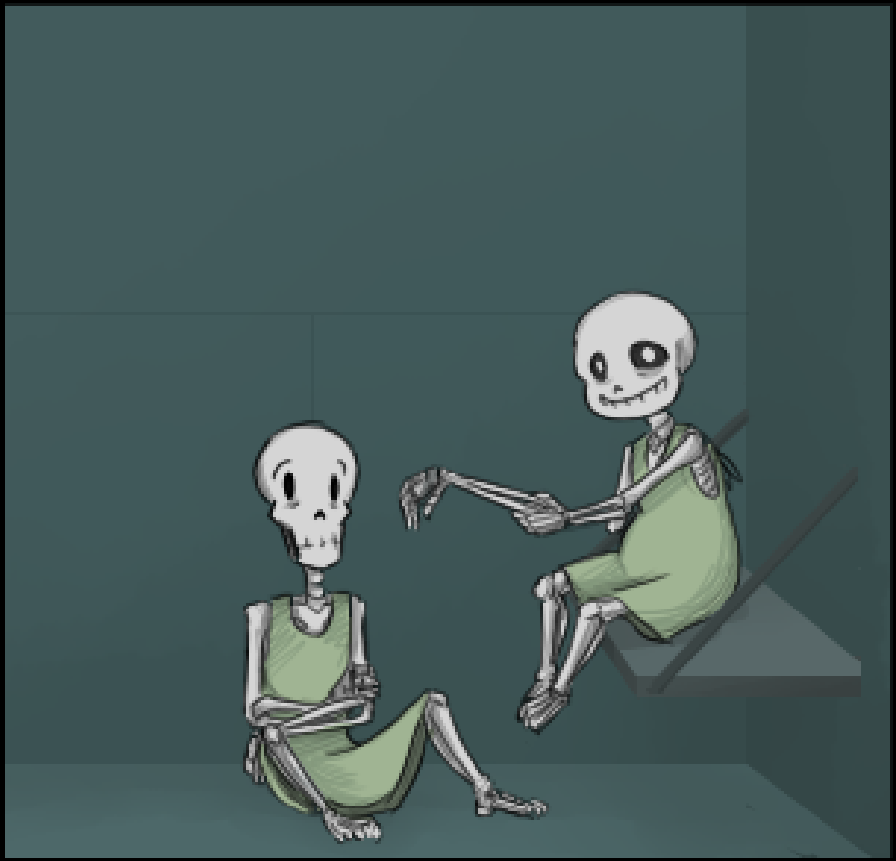
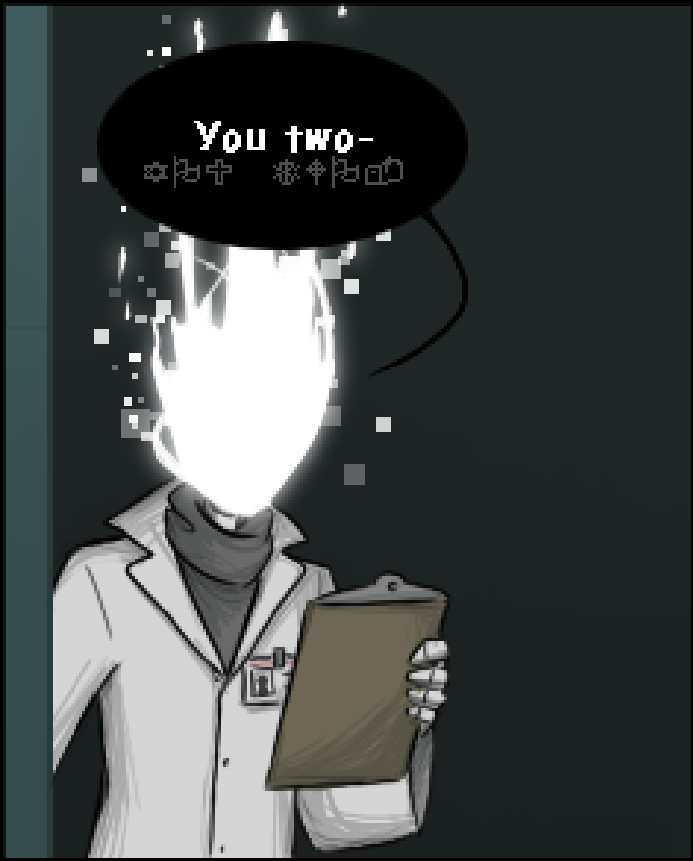
(YAWN) ARE YOU SURE YOU WEREN'T DREAMING?

maybe...

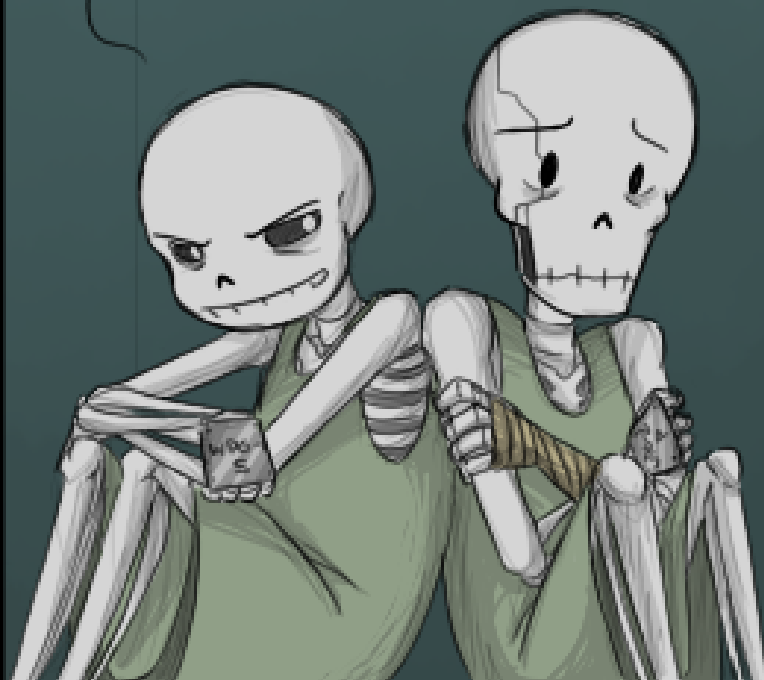
maybe.

let's keep this between you and me, alright?





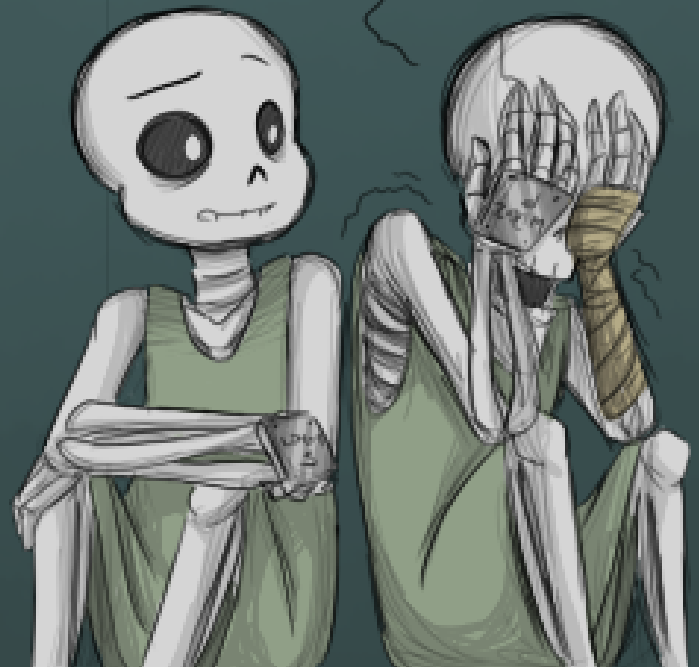
so... still think
he has good in
him?



So B

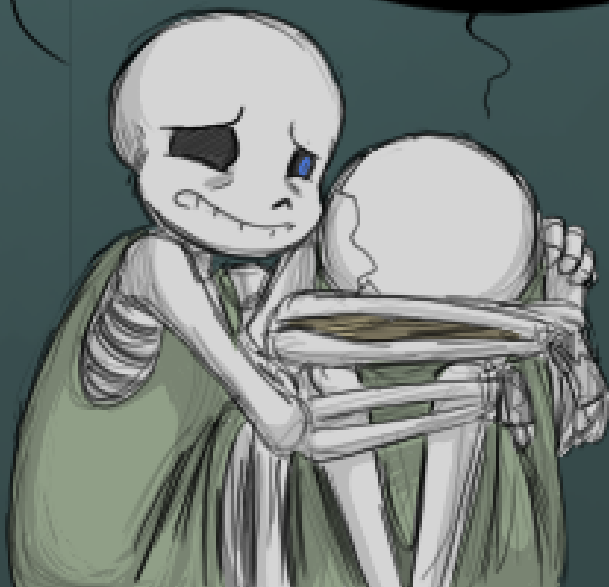
So B

So B



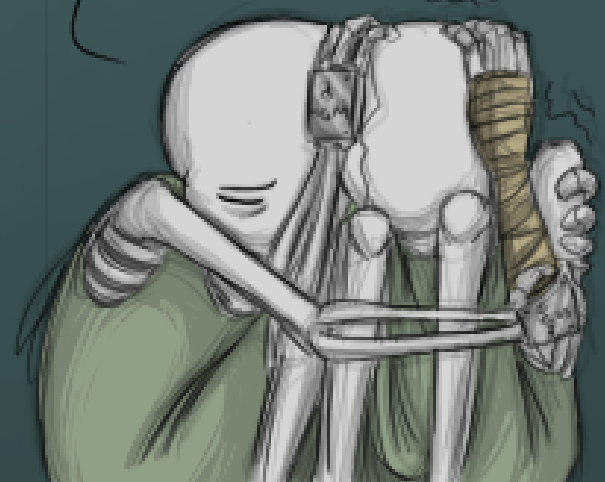
ah jeez i'm sorry, i didn't
mean it, cmon it's okay, maybe
you're right, alright? cmon, it's
okay, don't cry.

uwaaaaaahh
snf

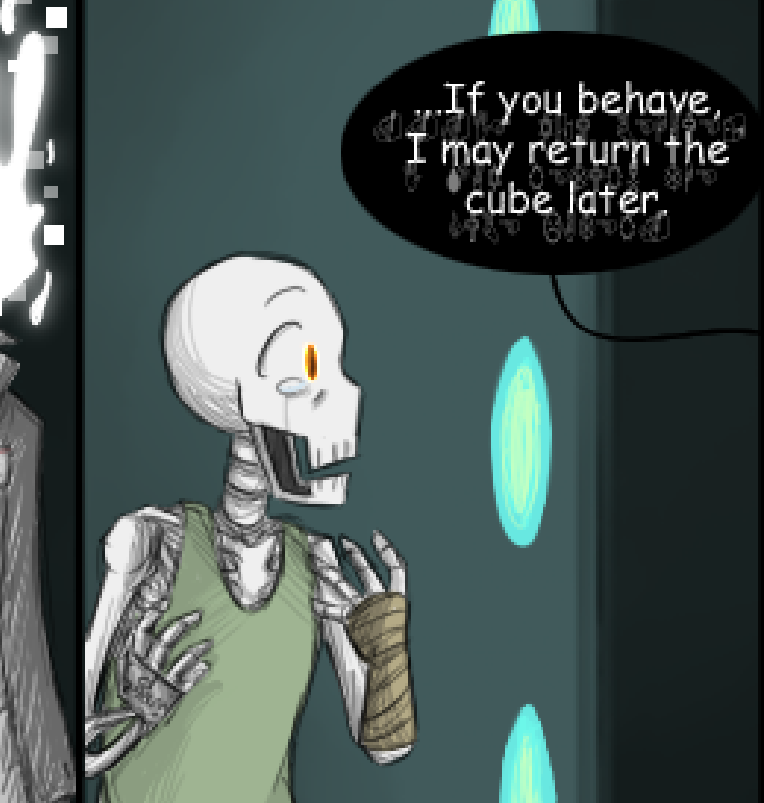
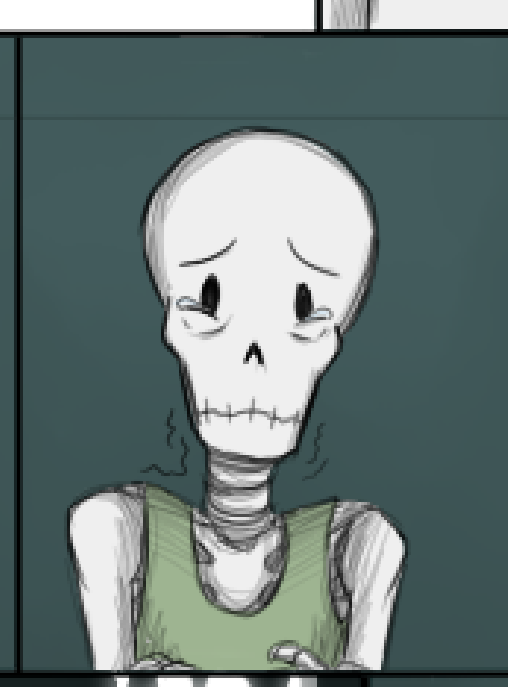
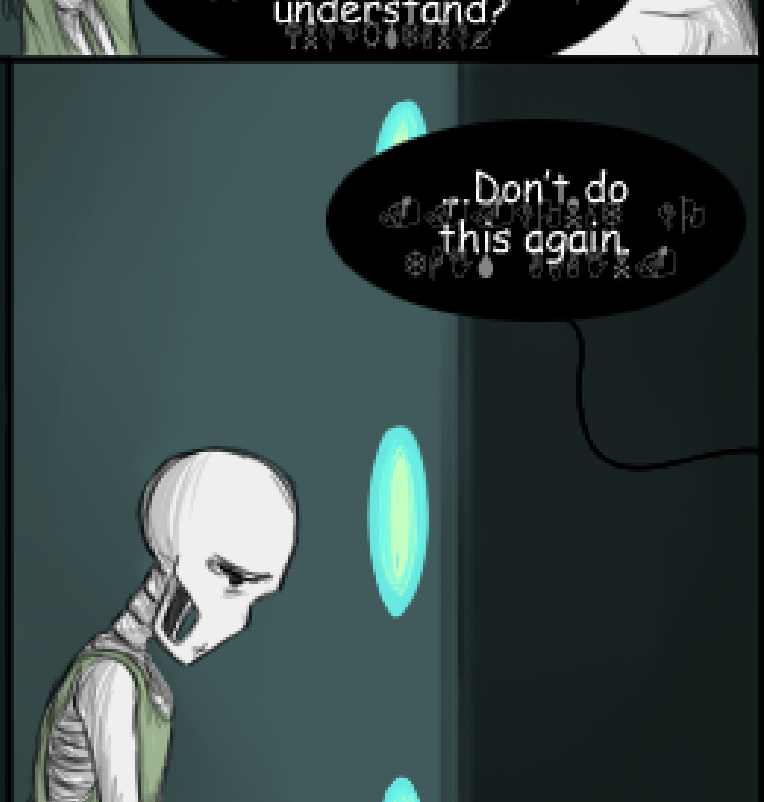
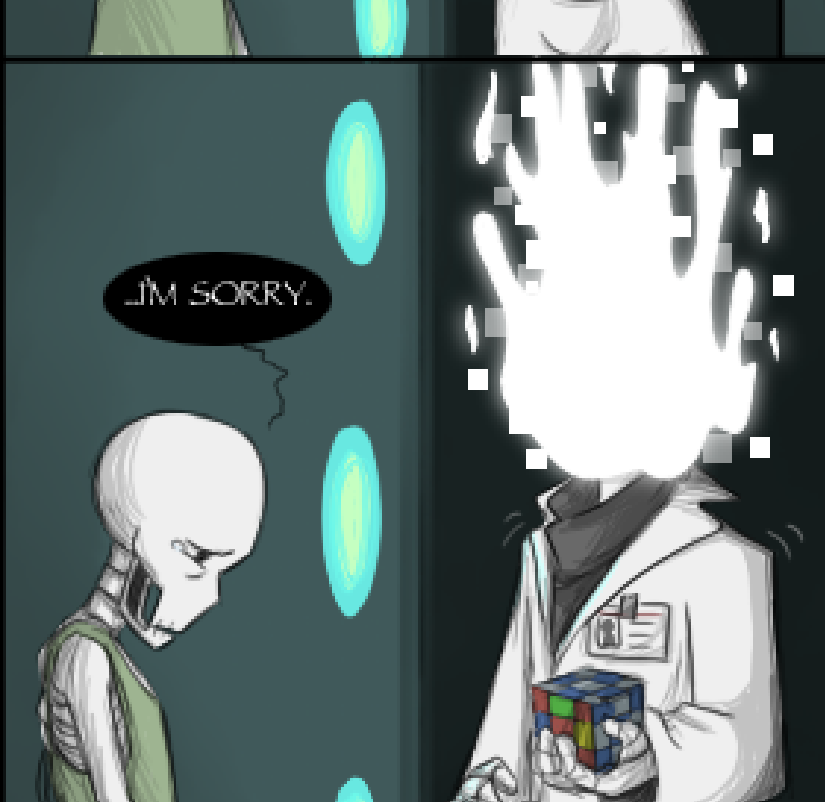
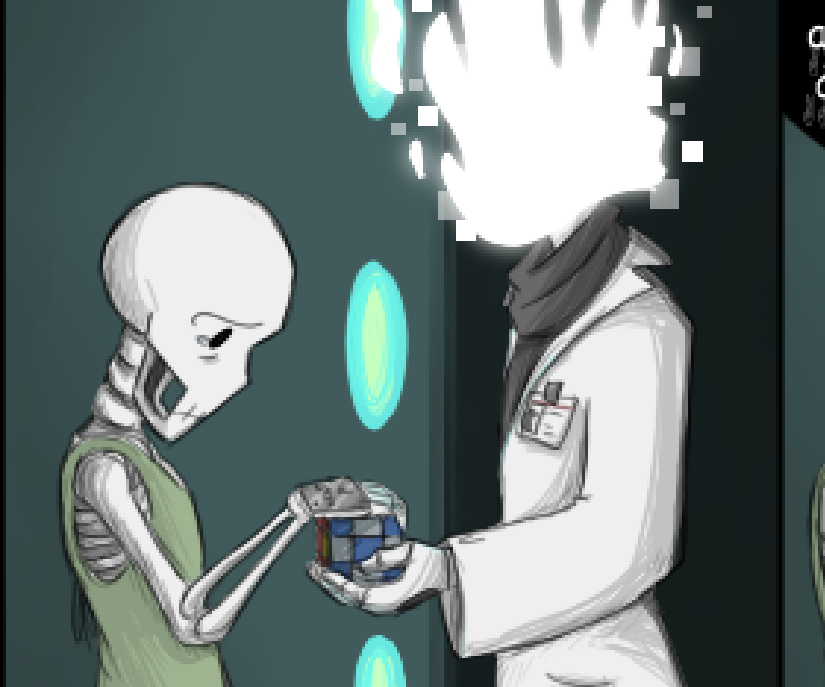
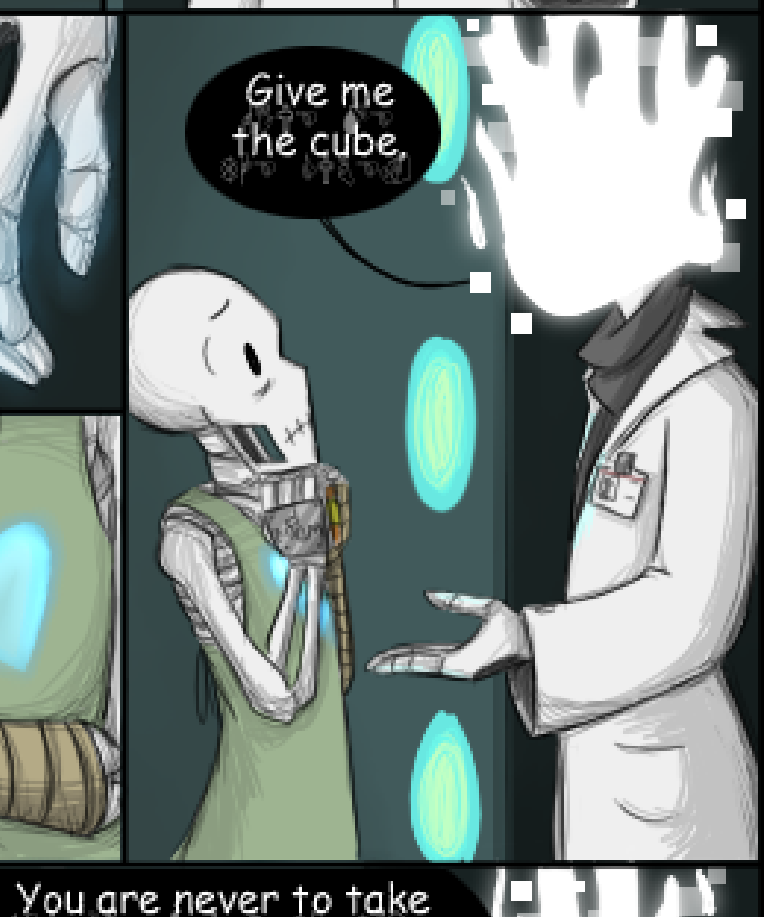
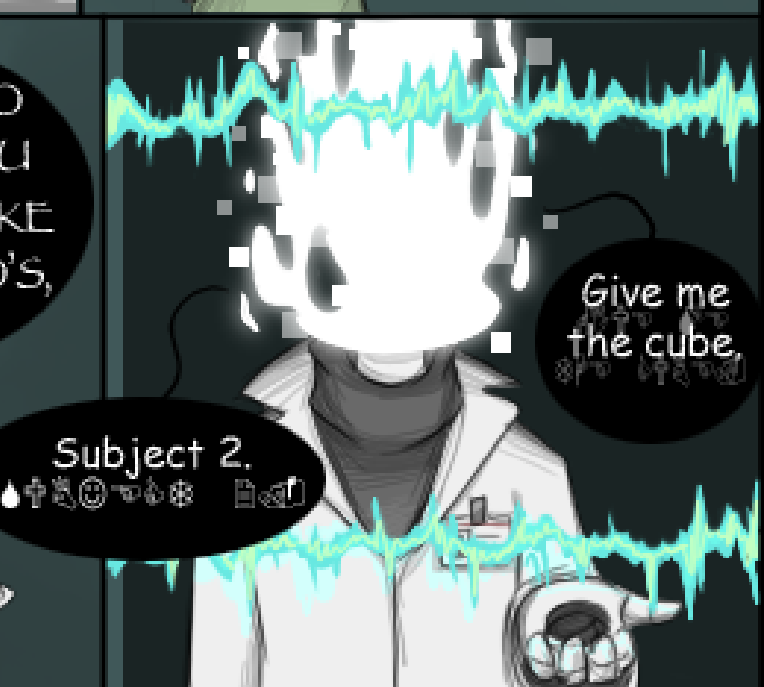
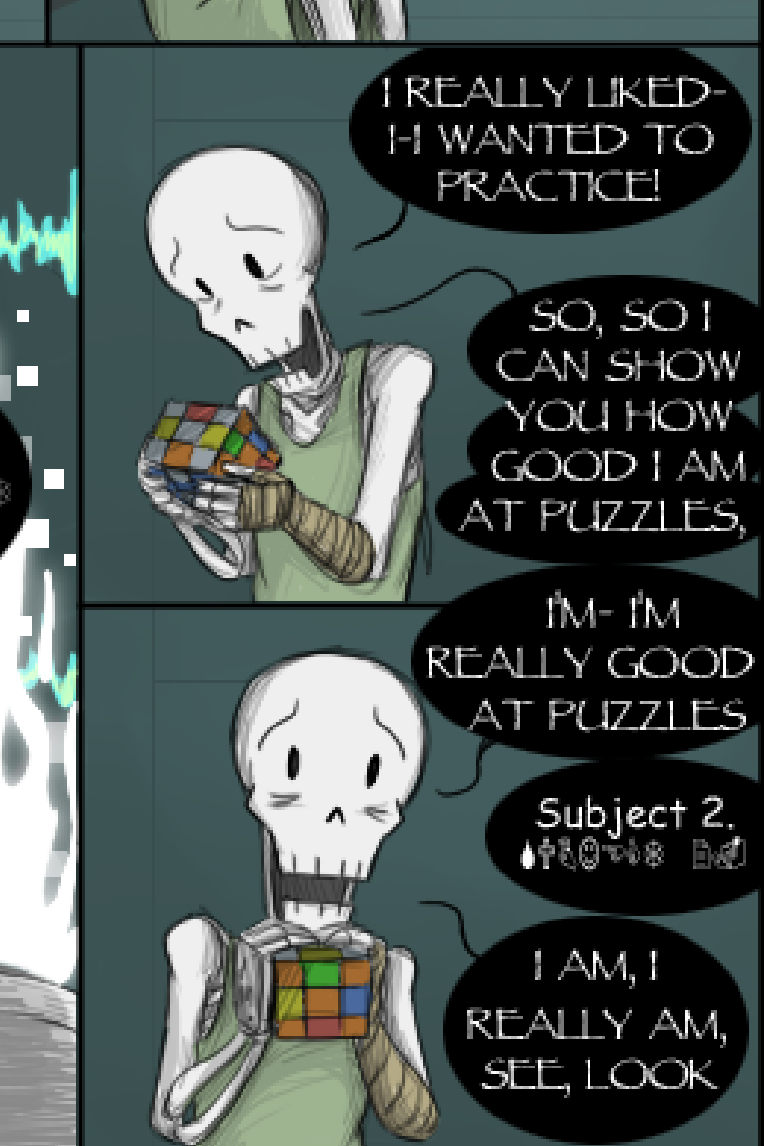
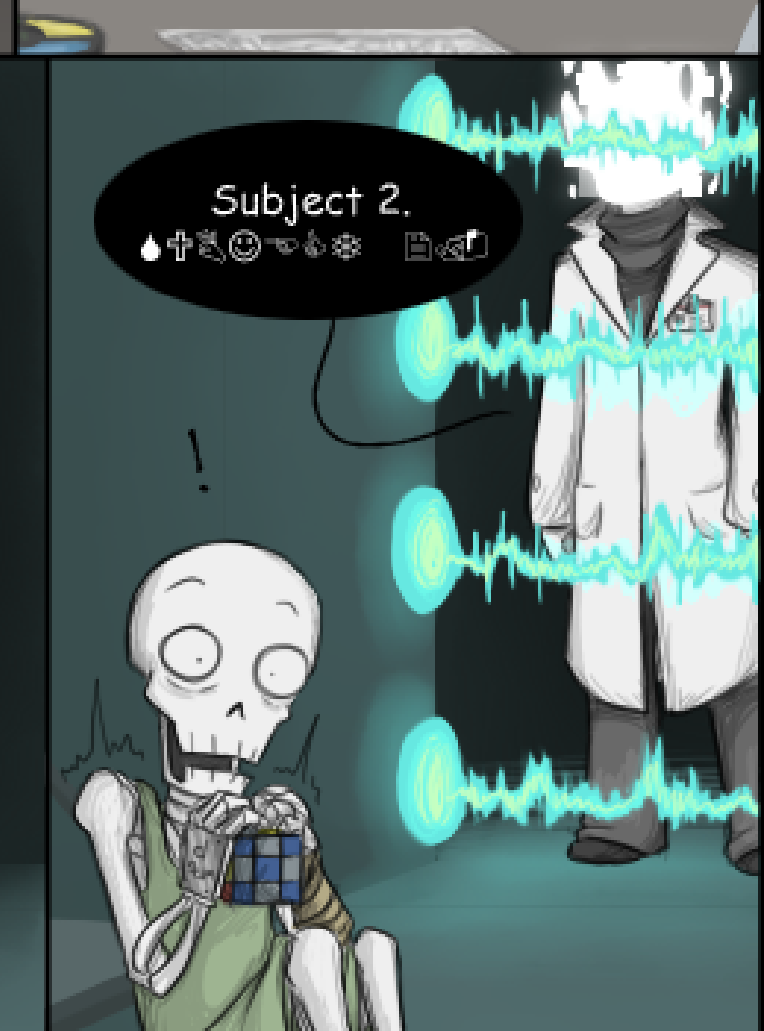
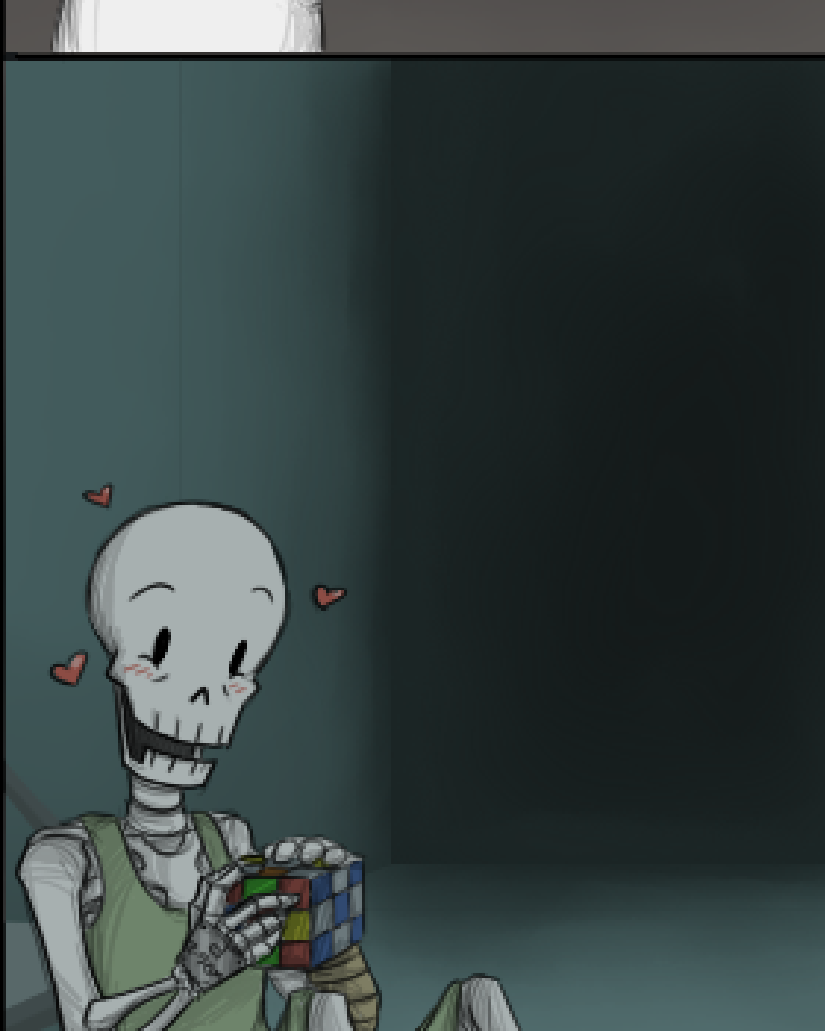


I'M SO
SCARED BROTHER I'M
SCARED ALL THE TIME AND
IT'S SO HARD, IT'S SO HARD
TO KEEP- TO KEEP BELIEVING
BUT IT'S ALL I'VE GOT
AND

i know, i know
i'm sorry









1-S WILL NOT WAKE UP.

HE DOES NOT RESPOND TO ANY MAGIC I CAN MUSTER. IT'S LIKE HOLDING WATER IN YOUR HANDS. HIS SOUL IS STILL INTACT, BUT HE LINGERS BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH, UNABLE TO COMMIT TO EITHER. IF HE WAS DOING THIS TO SPITE ME, I WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED. THIS WOULD BE LESS A SERIOUS PROBLEM IF THAT WERE THE CASE.

THE WILL TO LIVE IS EVERYTHING.

WITHOUT IT...

...I MAY HAVE TO CONSIDER... OTHER METHODS.

Come with me.

WHAT IS IT?

Do not dawdle. Come on.

OKAY, THEN... WHERE ARE WE GOING? ARE WE GOING TO SEE MY BROTHER?

Yes.

OH YAY!! I WAS REALLY WORRIED ABOUT HIM!! IS HE OKAY, IS HE GOING TO COME BACK?

1-S is about to die.

WHAT?!?! WHY?!? WHAT HAPPENED?!? IS HE-

His SOUL is stable, but he refuses to wake despite.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO FIX HIM!!! I-

Don't interrupt me.

...He refuses to wake despite my efforts. I need you to test my theory.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, HOW CAN HE NOT-

THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE, YOU'RE SO MUCH STRONGER THAN US!! YOU CAN DO ANYTHING!!

...Magic is an expression of a monster's SOUL.

It reflects the self like a mirror.

As a monster grows... or changes...

so too does their magic develop and...

shift.

...Certain consequences are unavoidable.

Since I...

began this project, I've lost-

I'm losing the ability to heal.

REALLY?

THAT'S... THAT'S AWFUL, I'M SORRY.

I knew there'd be a price to pay.

I've made my choices, and I will live with them.

But it means I have to resort to other methods.

LIKE... ME?

Yes.

BUT... I'VE NEVER HEALED ANYONE BEFORE! I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW! WHAT IF I CAN'T DO IT??

Then he will die.

NO... NO, HE CAN'T, HE CAN'T...

But I believe my theory will be correct.

BROTHER!!!

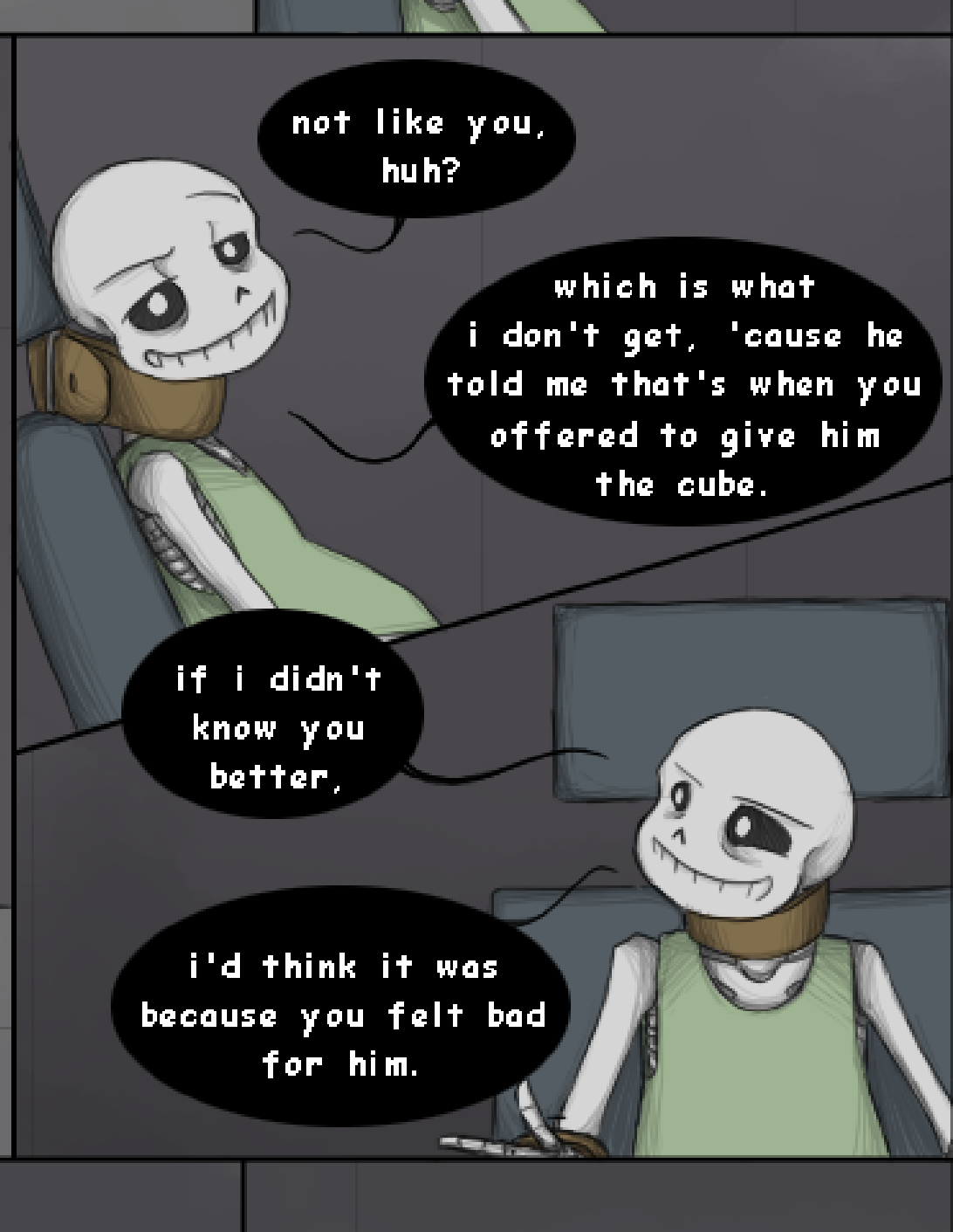
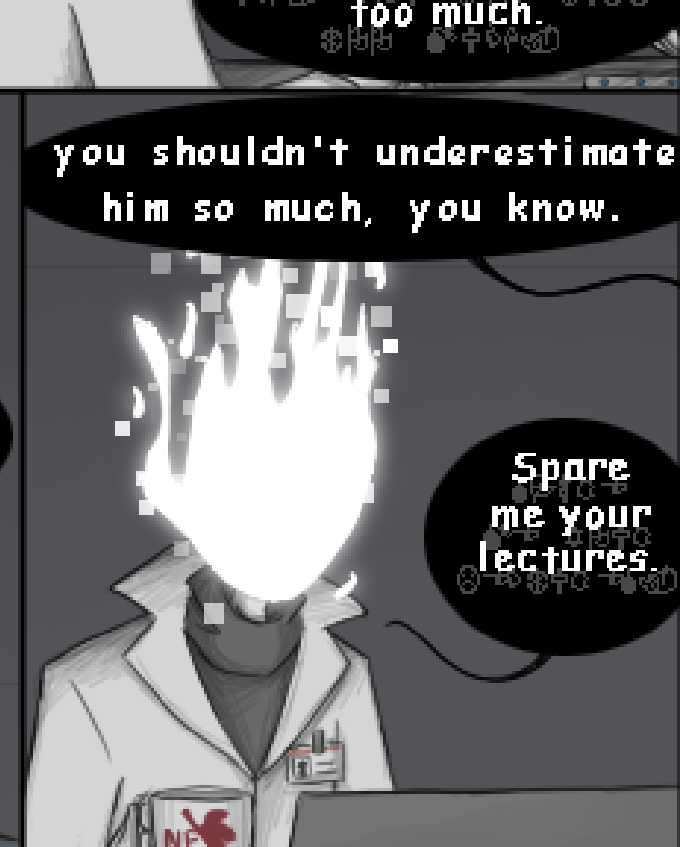
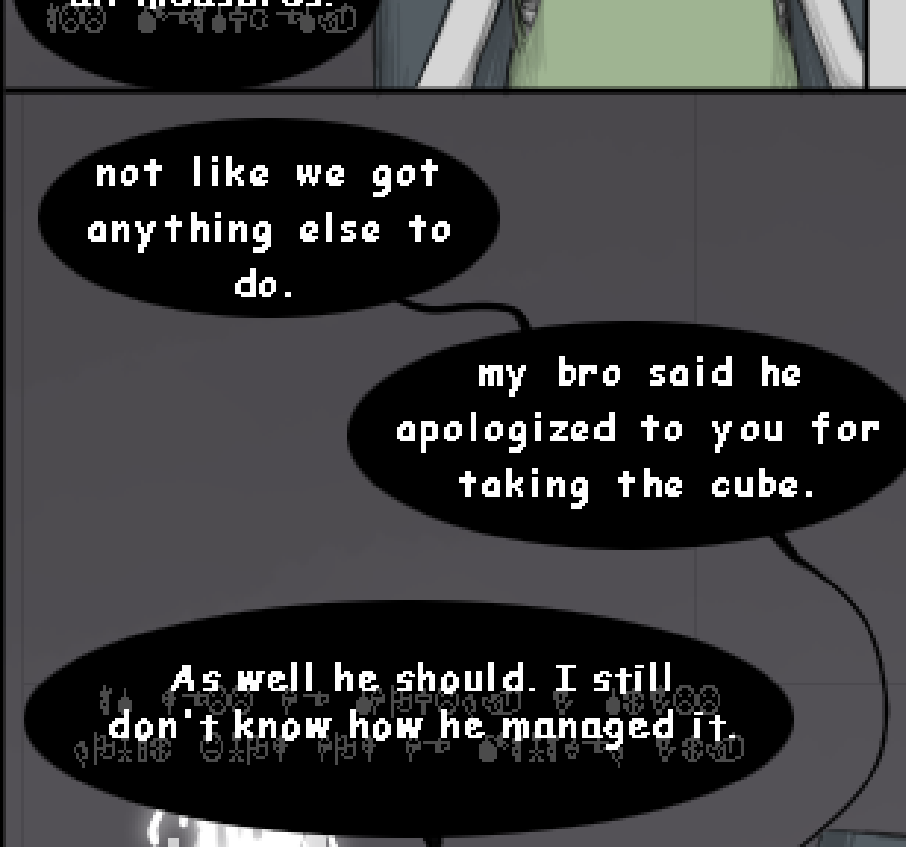
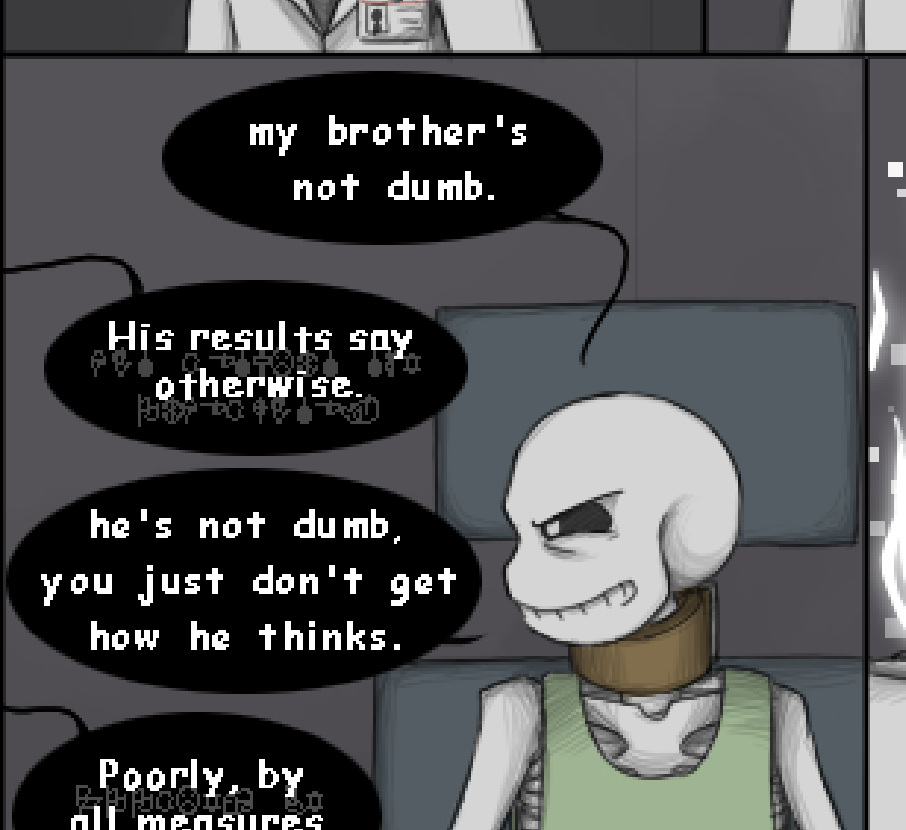
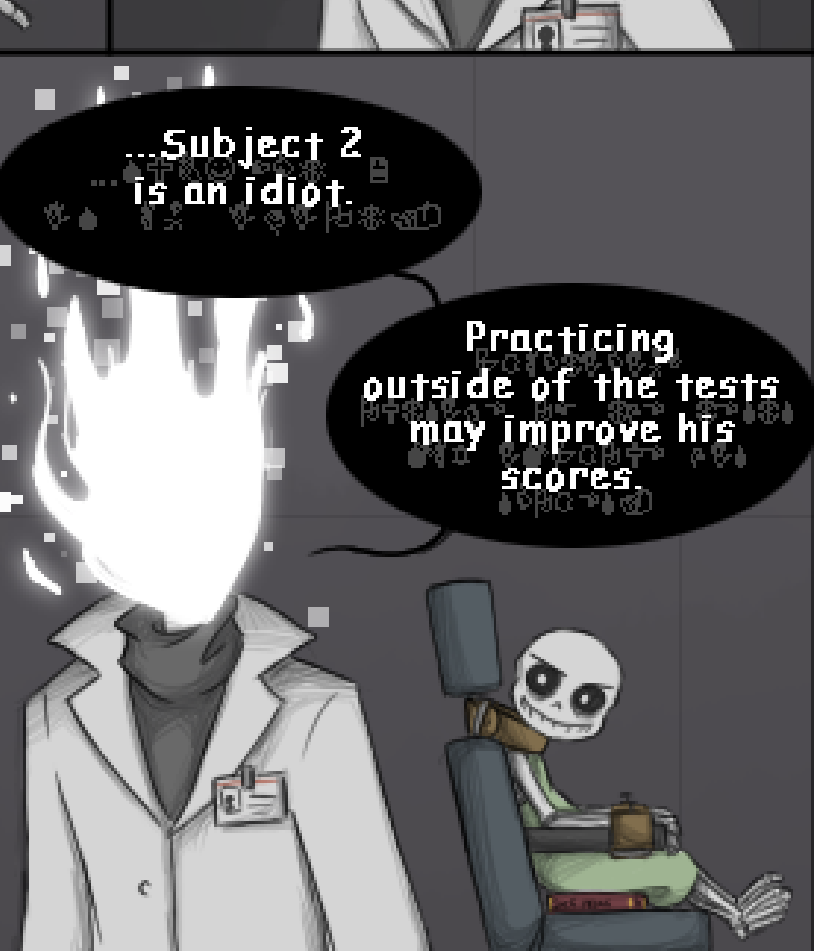
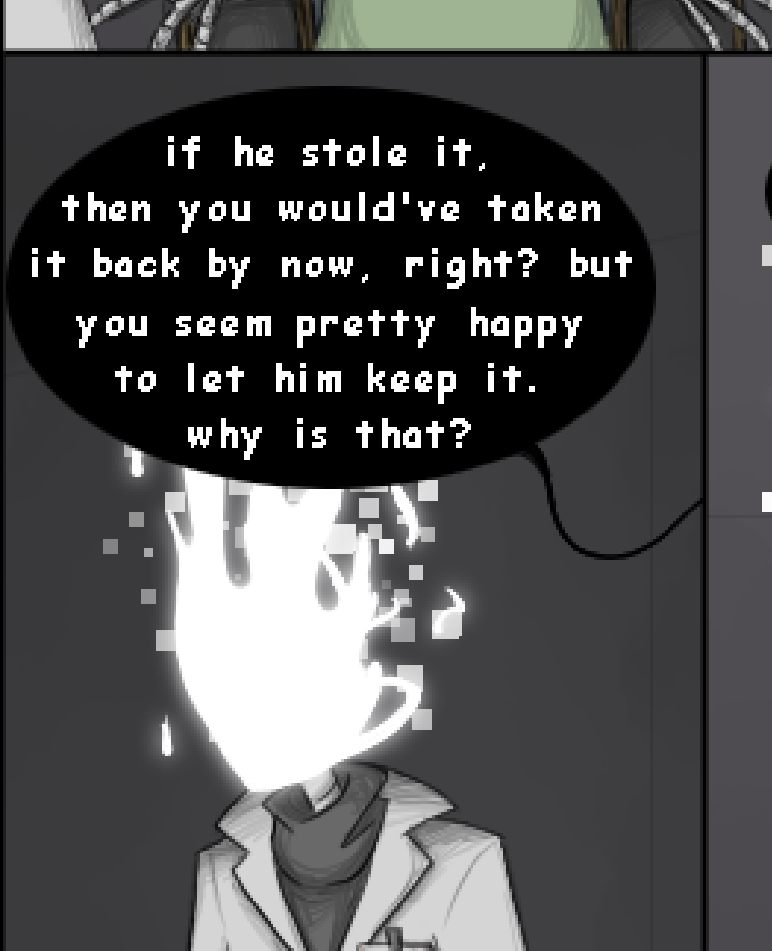
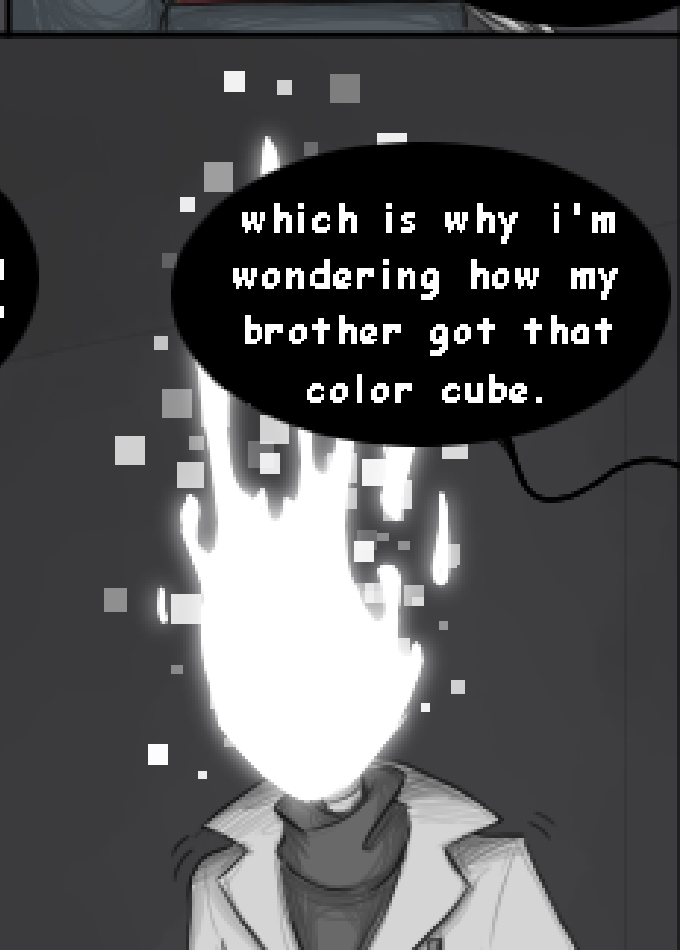
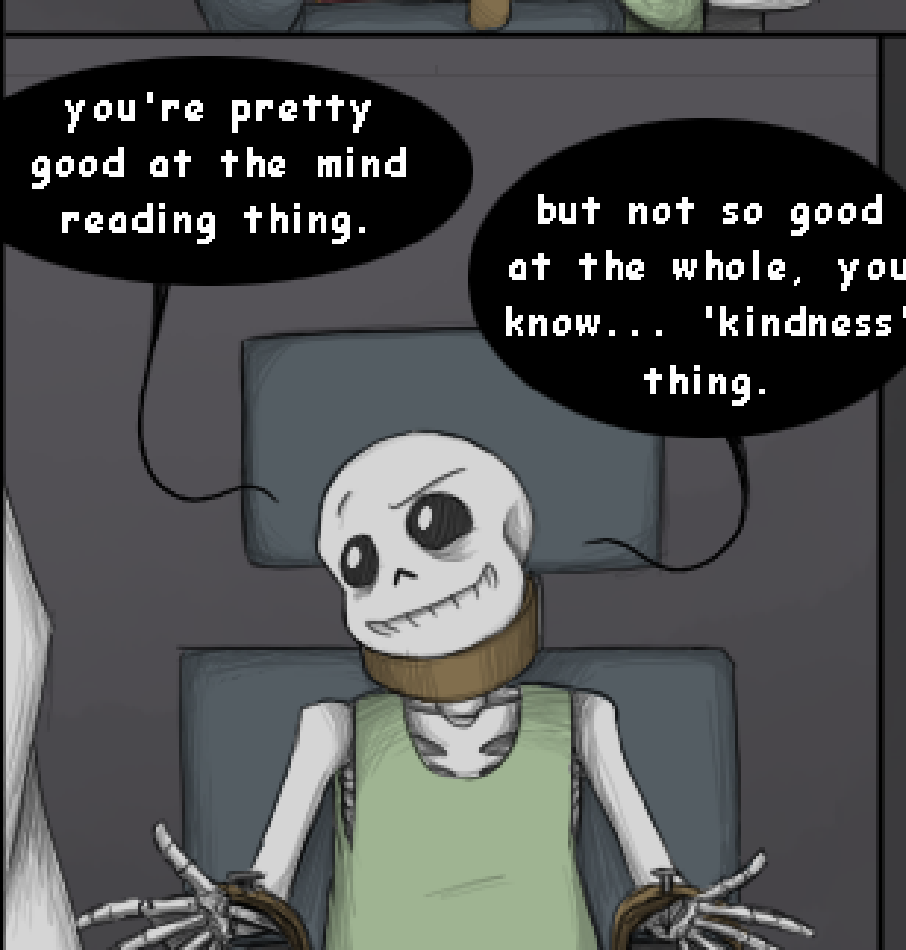
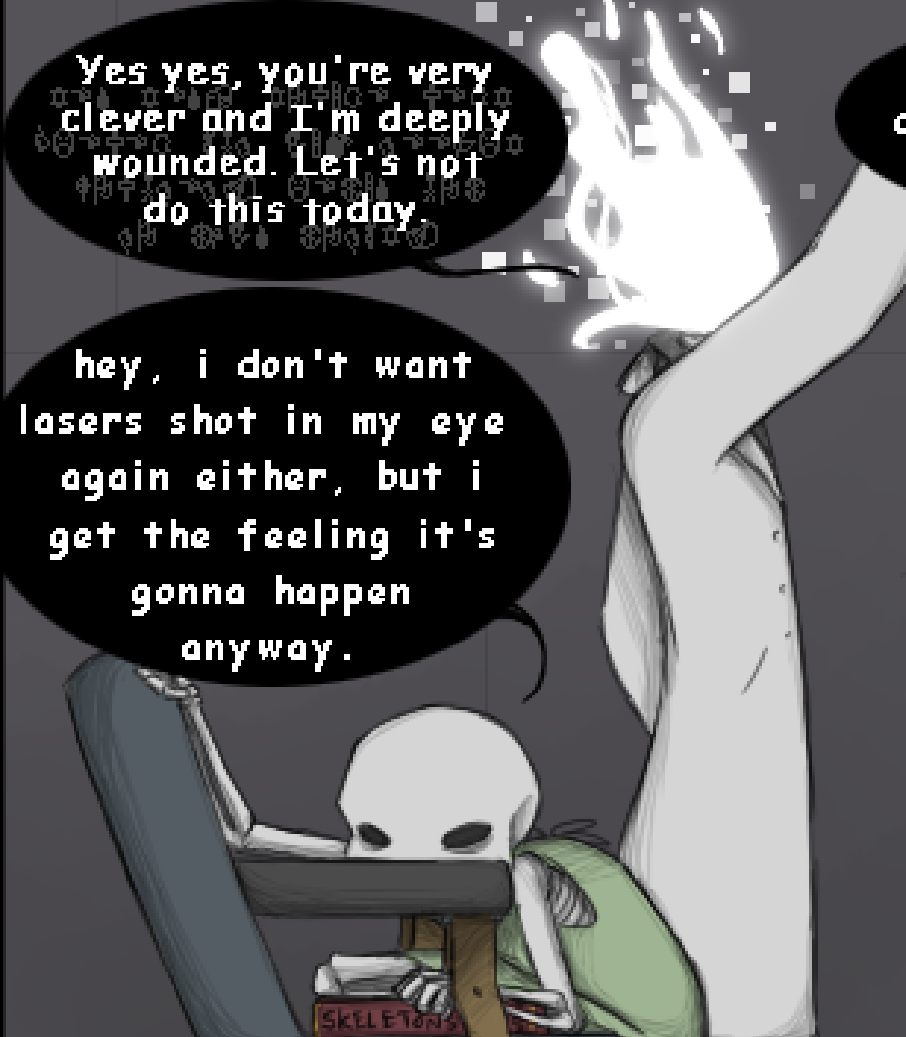
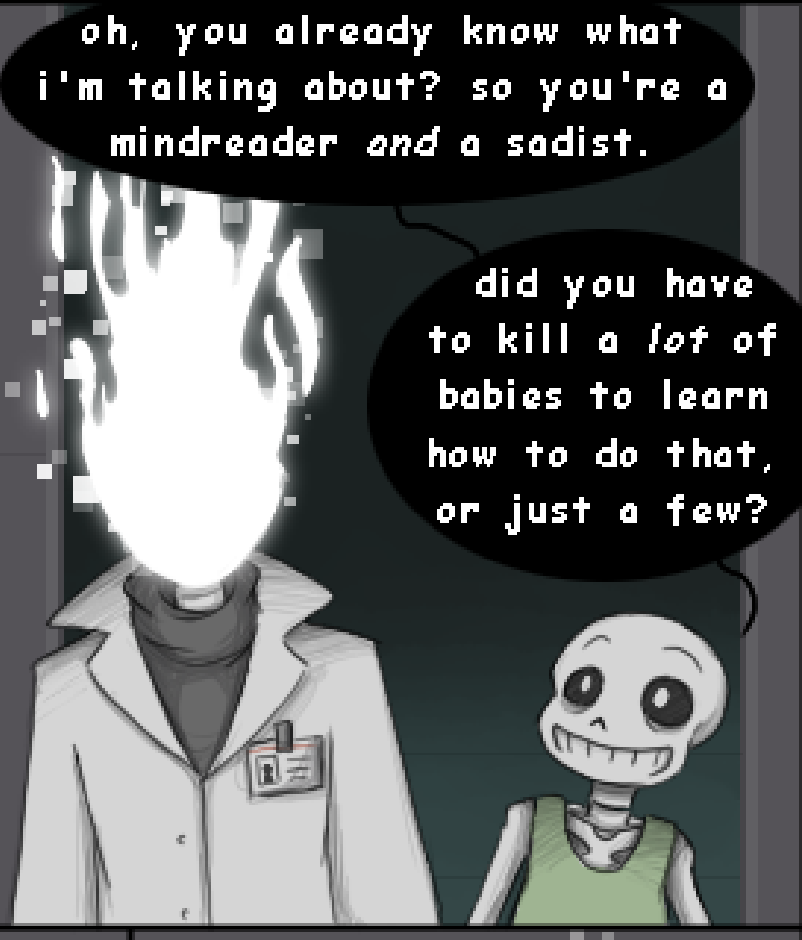
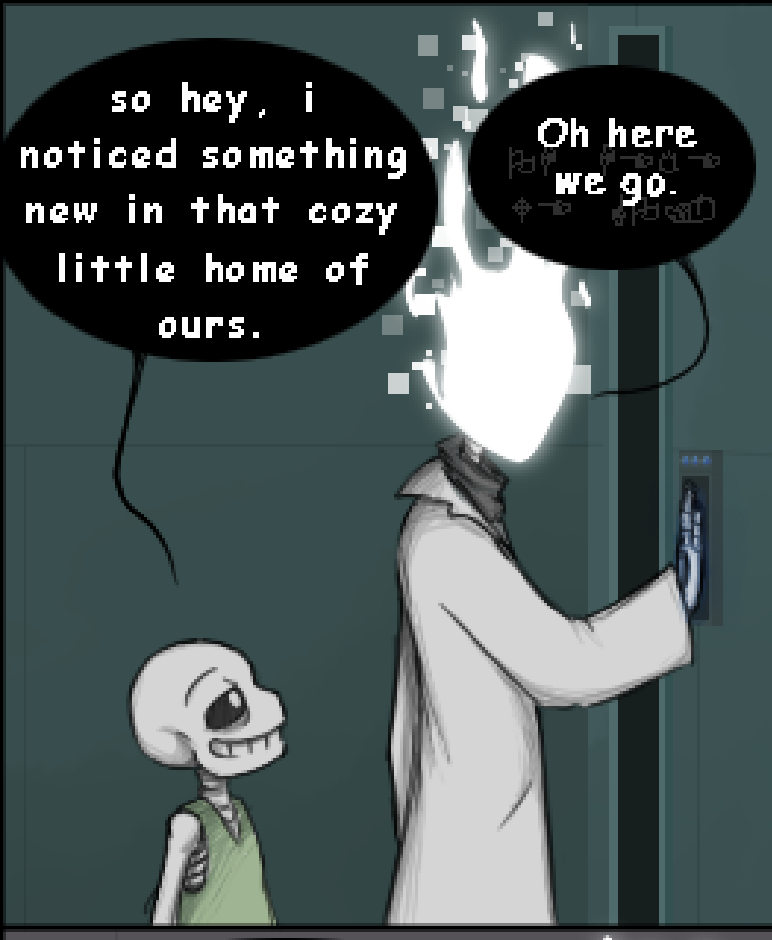
Just as I thought. I don't have to explain a single step.

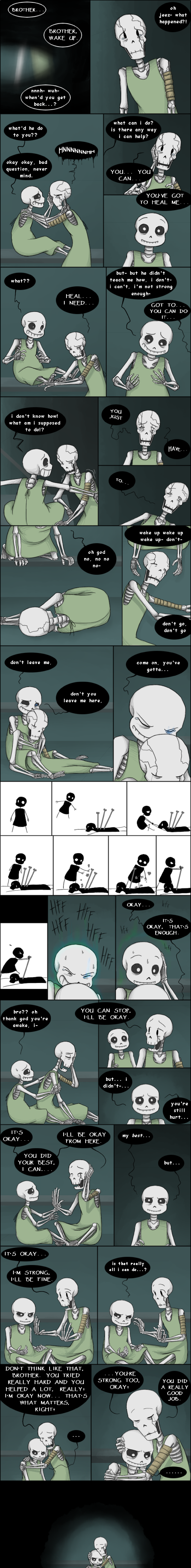
He already knows what to do, right down to his bones.

BROTHER!! BROTHER, CAN YOU HEAR ME?



We all make choices.





BROTHER...

BROTHER, WAKE UP.

nnnh- wuh- when'd you get back...?

oh jeez- what happened?!

what'd he do to you??

HNNNNNNHIM

okay okay, bad question, never mind.

what can i do? is there any way i can help?

YOU... YOU CAN...

YOU'VE GOT TO HEAL ME...

what???

HEAL... I NEED...

but- but he didn't teach me how, i don't- i can't, i'm not strong enough-

GOT TO... YOU CAN DO IT...

i don't know how! what am i supposed to do!?

YOU JUST

HAVE...

TO...

wake up wake up wake up- don't-

oh god no, no no no-

don't go, don't go

don't leave me,

don't you leave me here,

come on, you've gotta...

bro?? oh thank god you're awake, i-

YOU CAN STOP, I'LL BE OKAY.

but... i didn't-...

you're still hurt...

IT'S OKAY...

I'LL BE OKAY FROM HERE.

my best...

but...

YOU DID YOUR BEST, I CAN...

IT'S OKAY...

I'M STRONG, I'LL BE FINE.

is that really all i can do...?

DON'T THINK LIKE THAT, BROTHER. YOU TRIED REALLY HARD AND YOU HELPED A LOT, REALLY! I'M OKAY NOW... THAT'S WHAT MATTERS, RIGHT?

...YOU'RE STRONG TOO, OKAY?

YOU DID A REALLY GOOD JOB.

...

.....



mmpgh-
ow

There, now
leave it on this
time.



why, it's not
like it can get
more broken.



There's very little room
for error with you when it
comes to your health.

Leave
it on.



...why am i
like this?

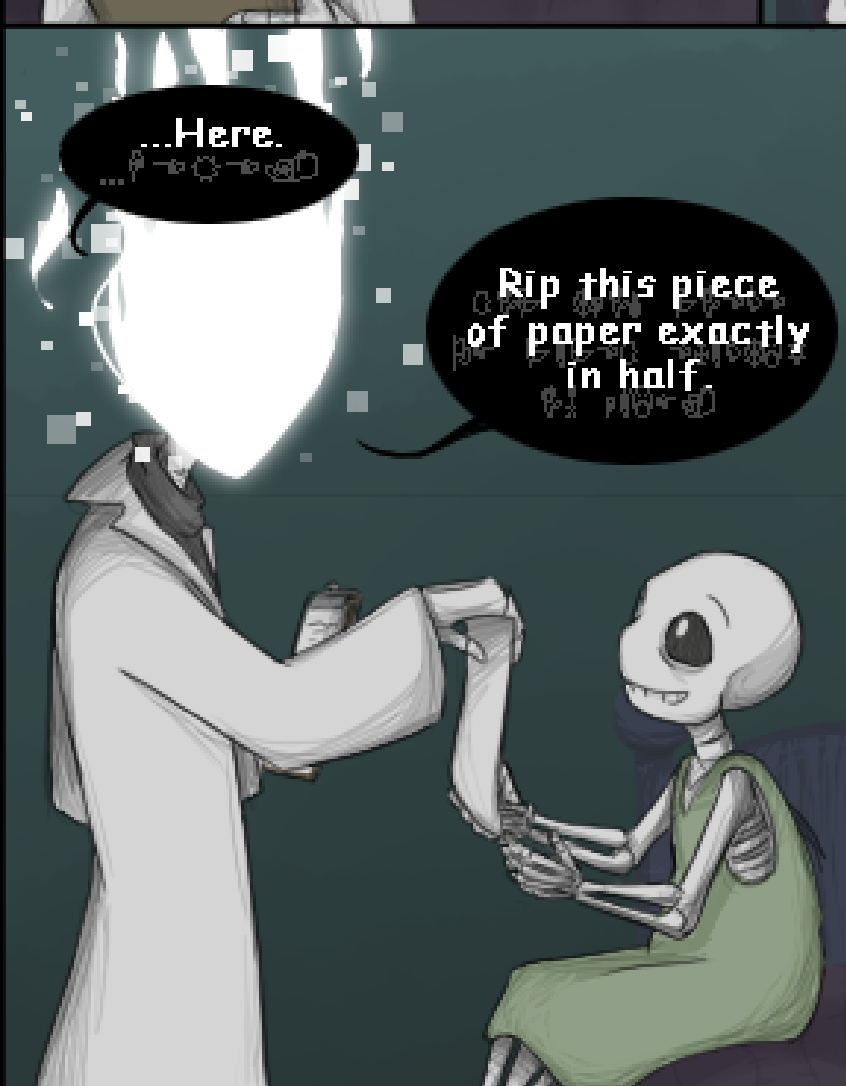
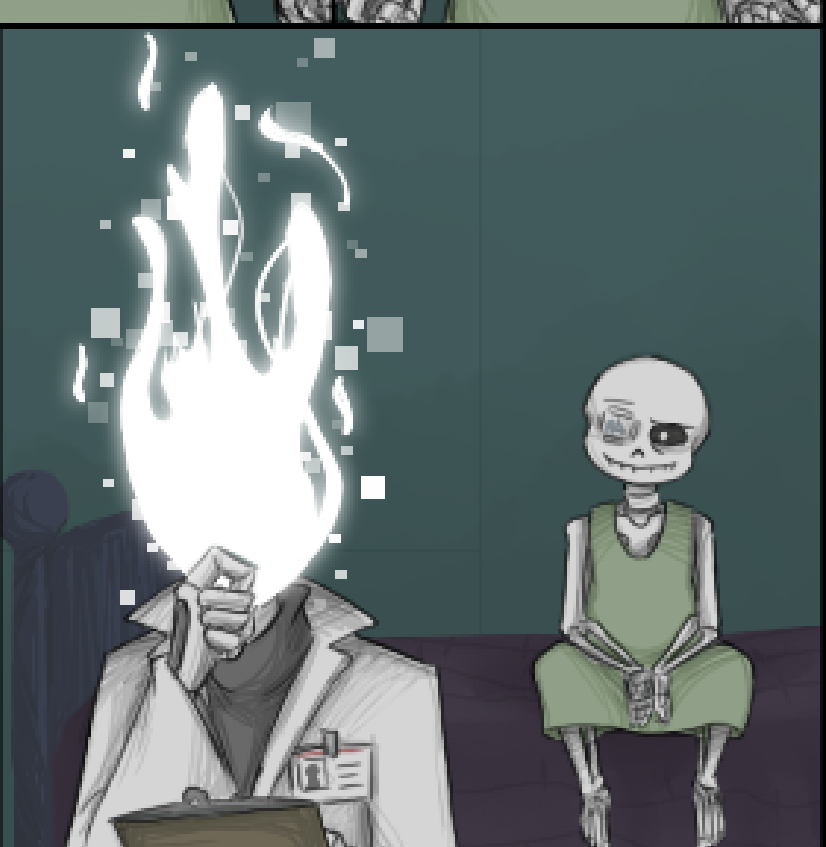
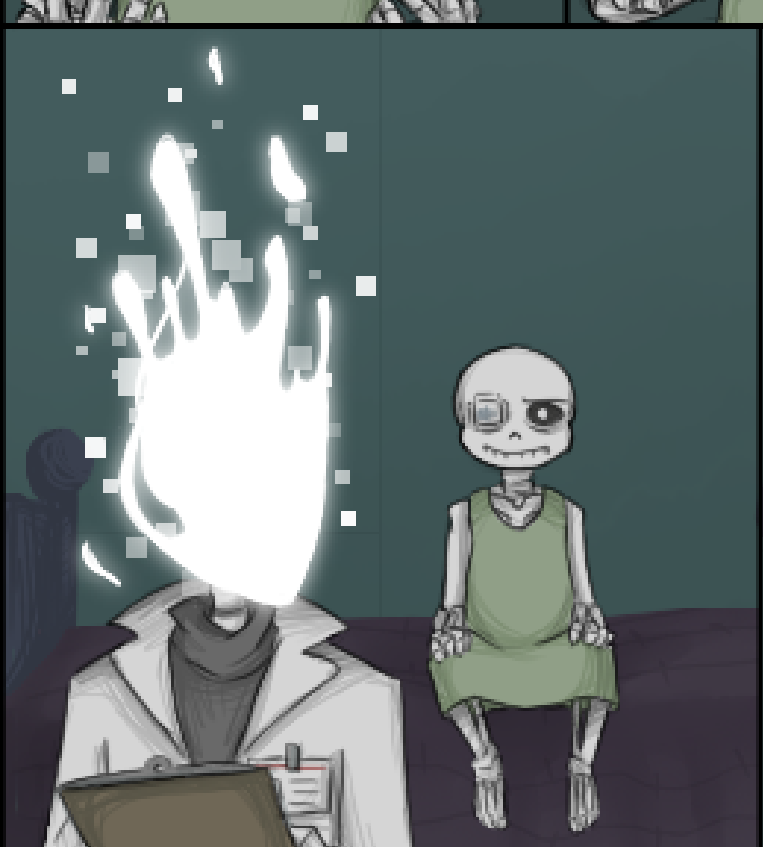
Be more
specific.



why am i so...

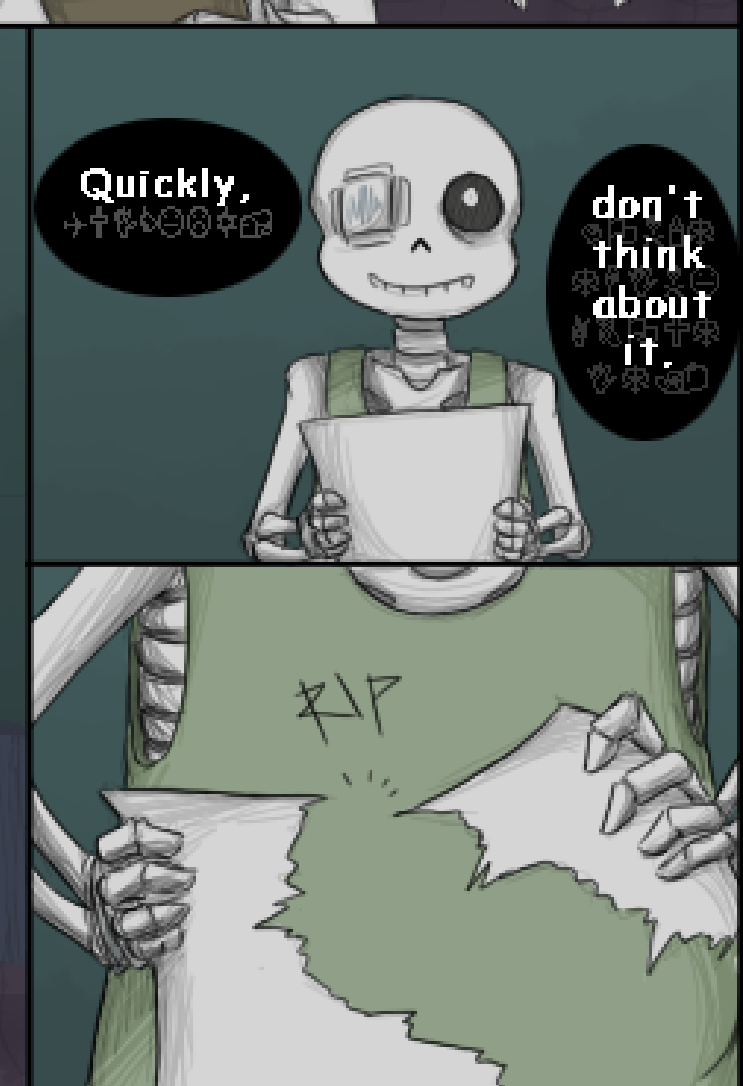


small?



...Here.

Rip this piece
of paper exactly
in half



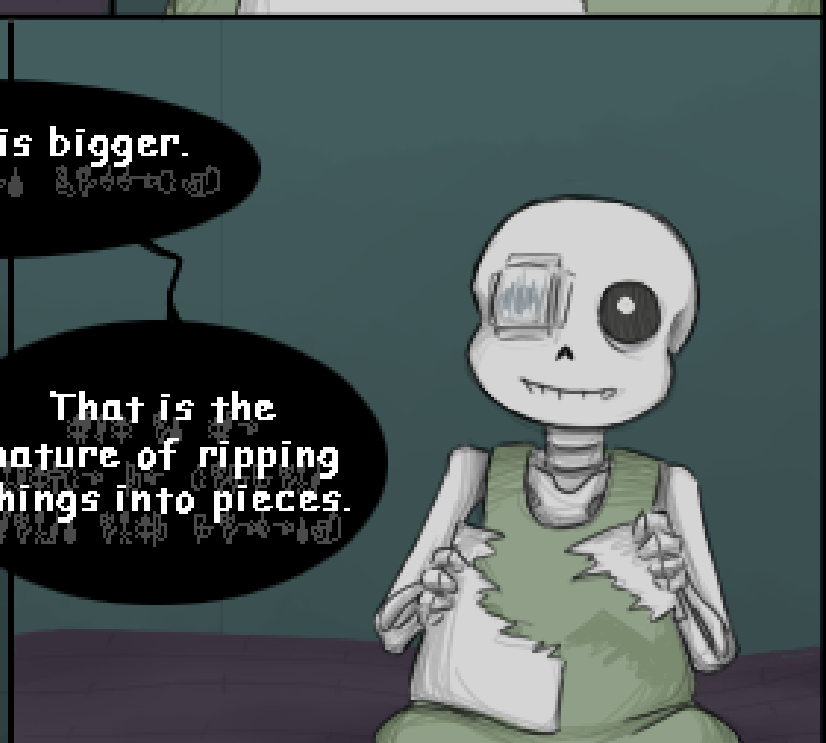
Quickly.

don't
think
about
it.



You see?

One piece is bigger.



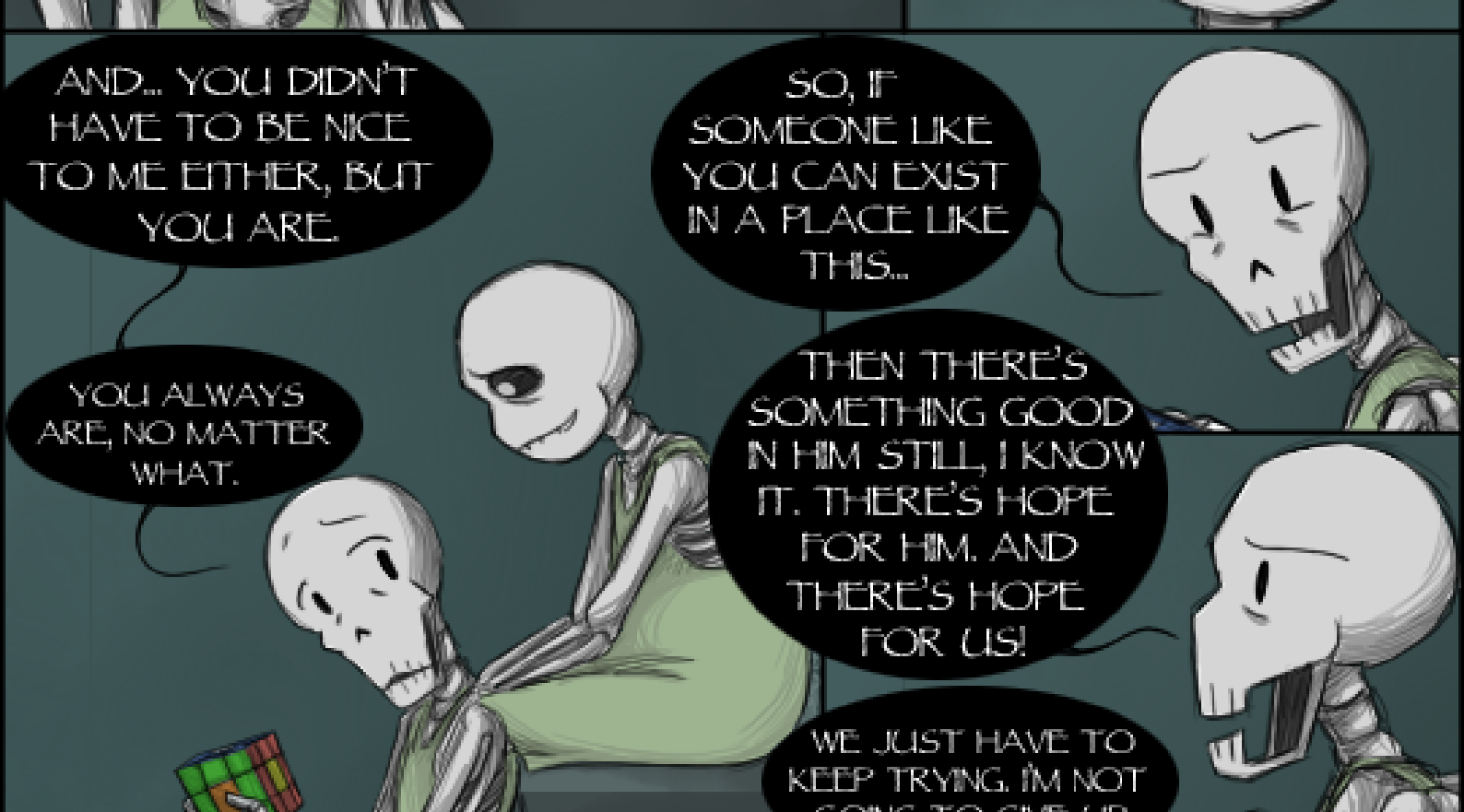
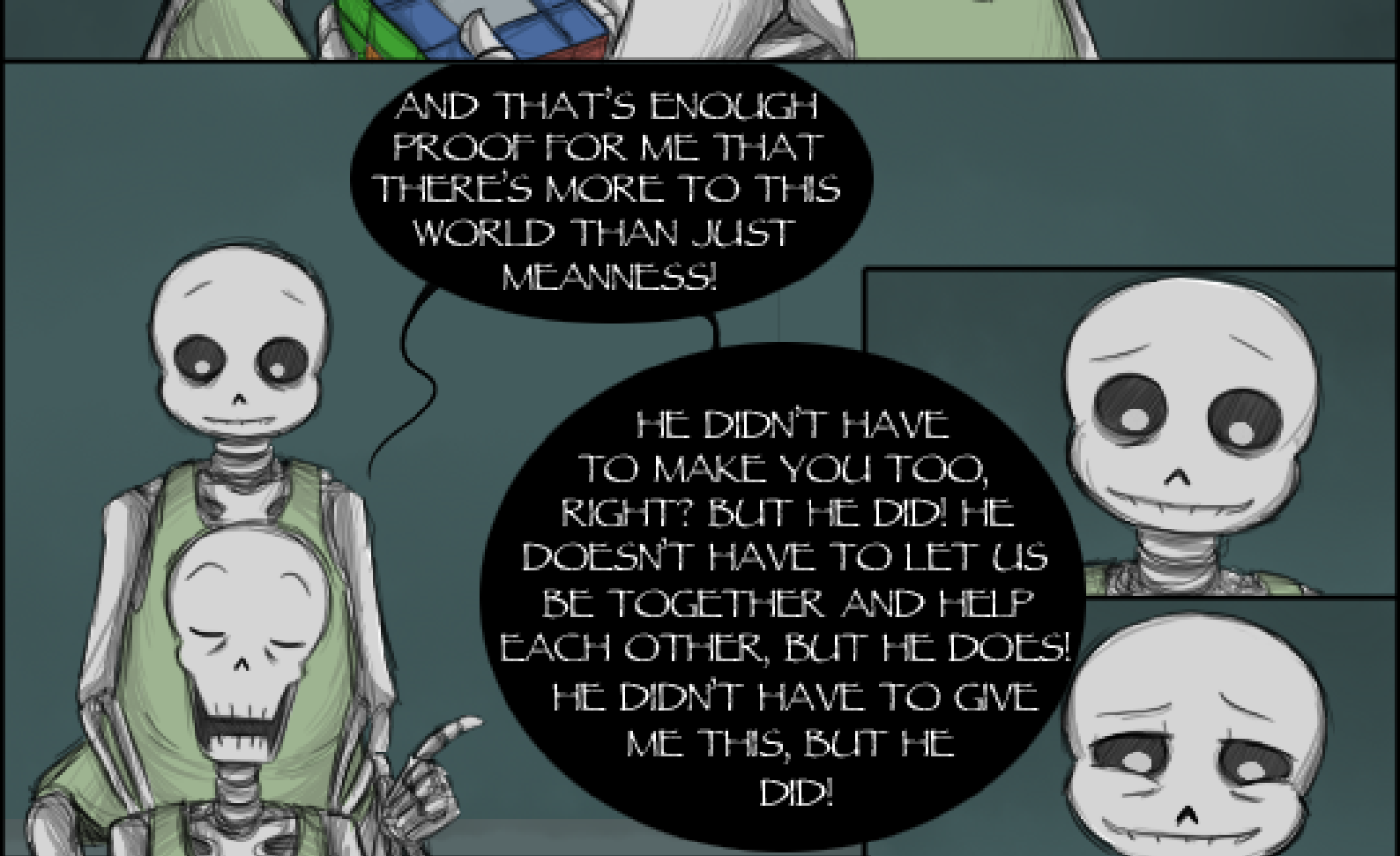
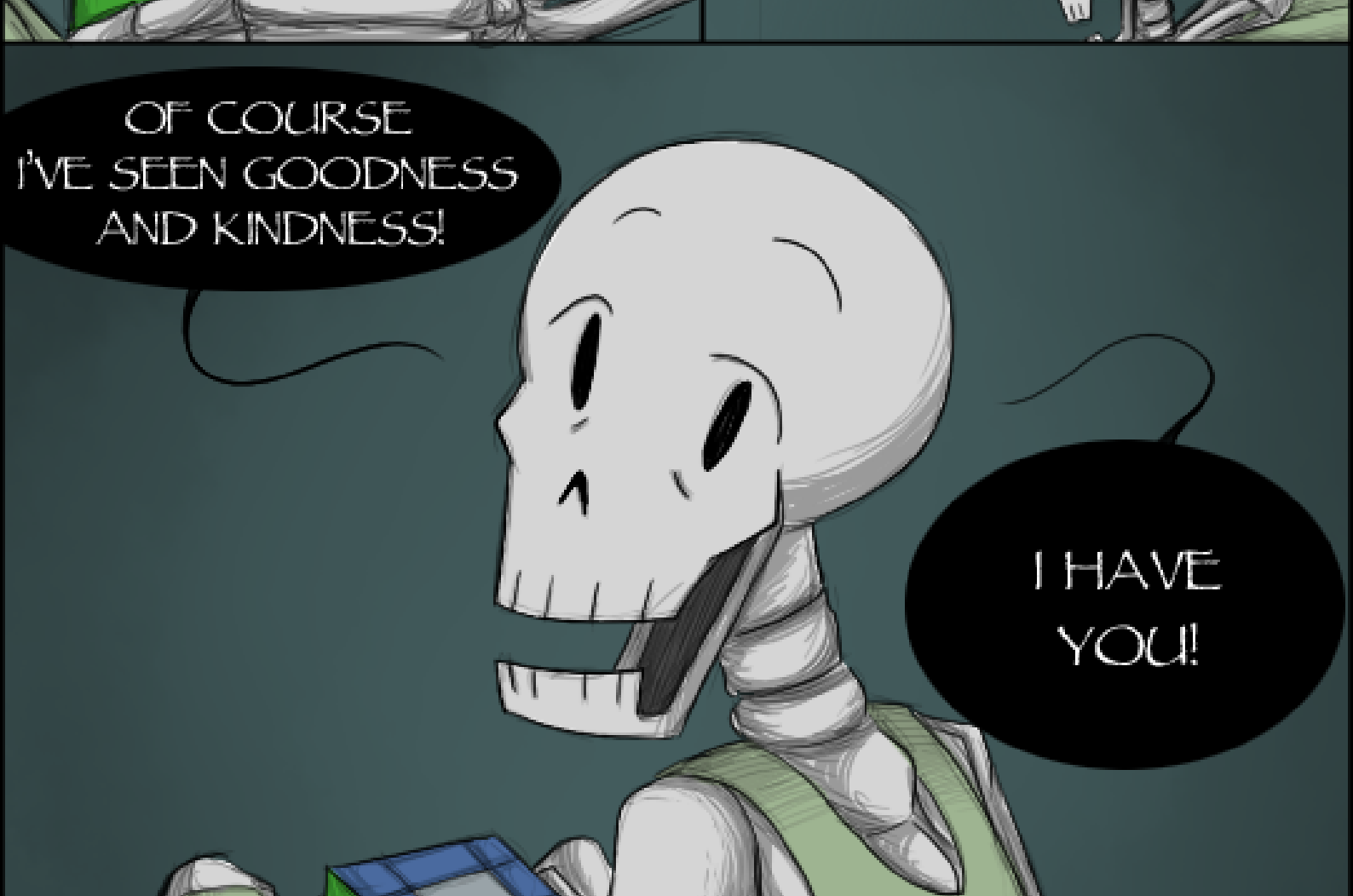
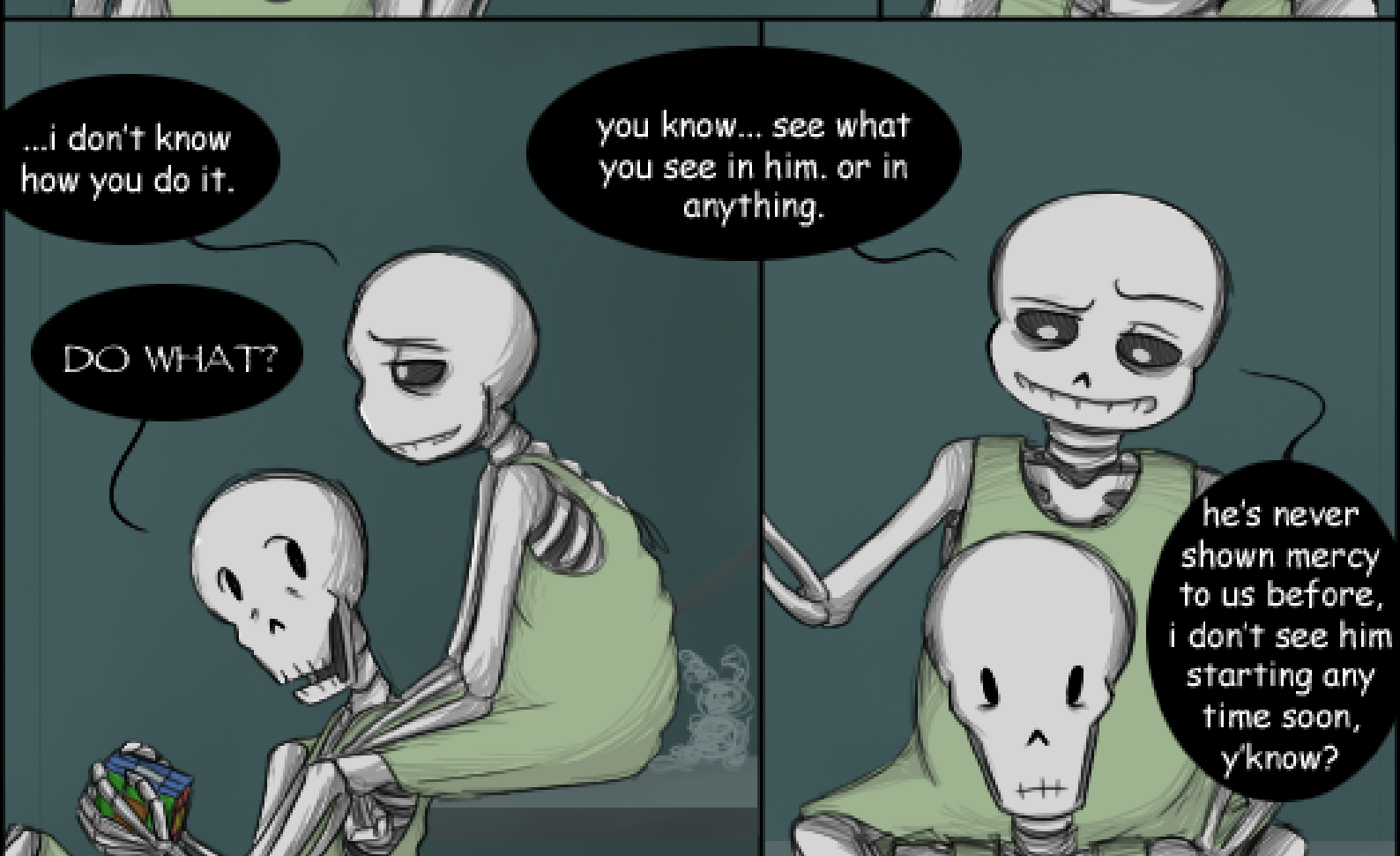
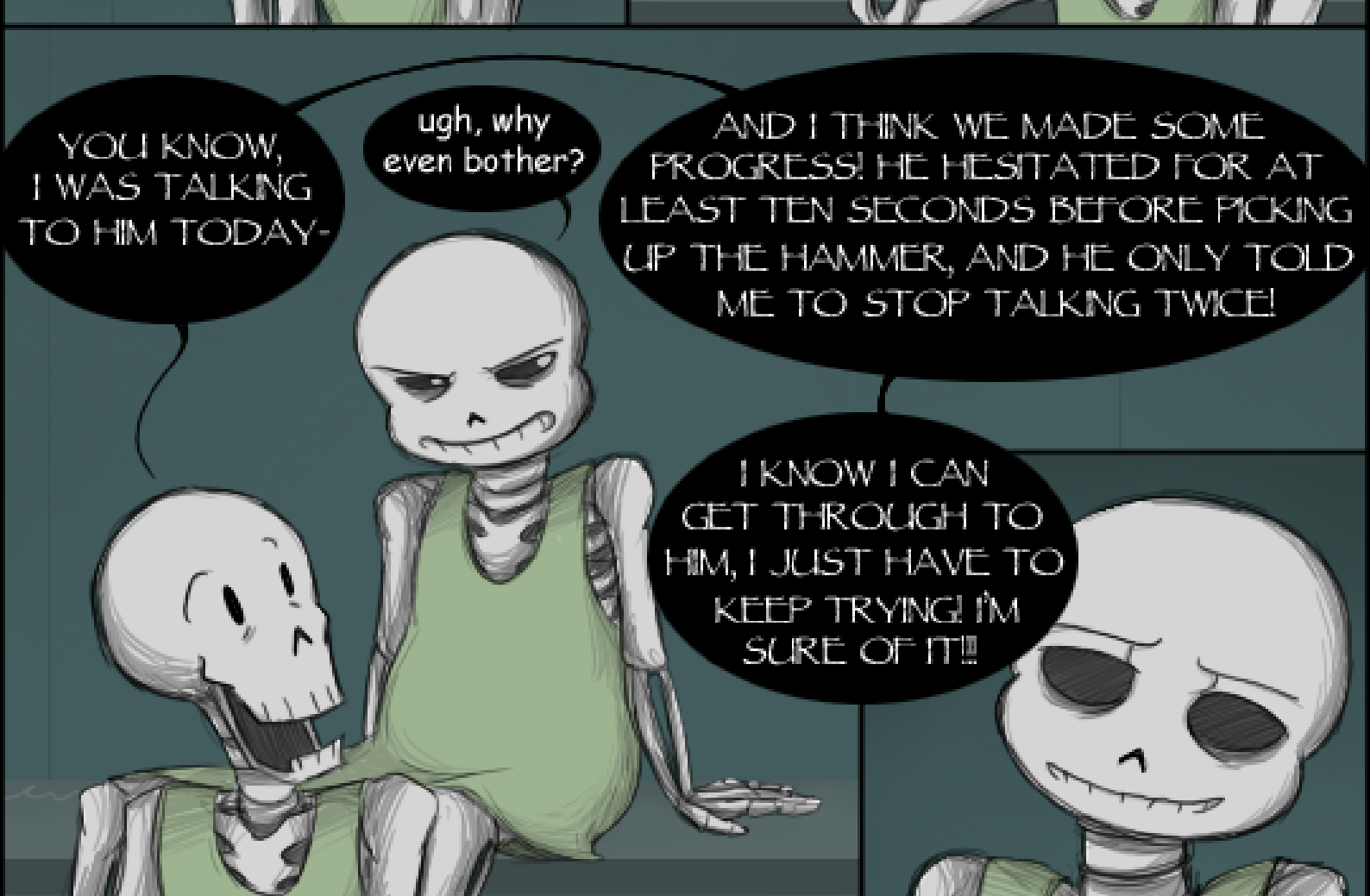
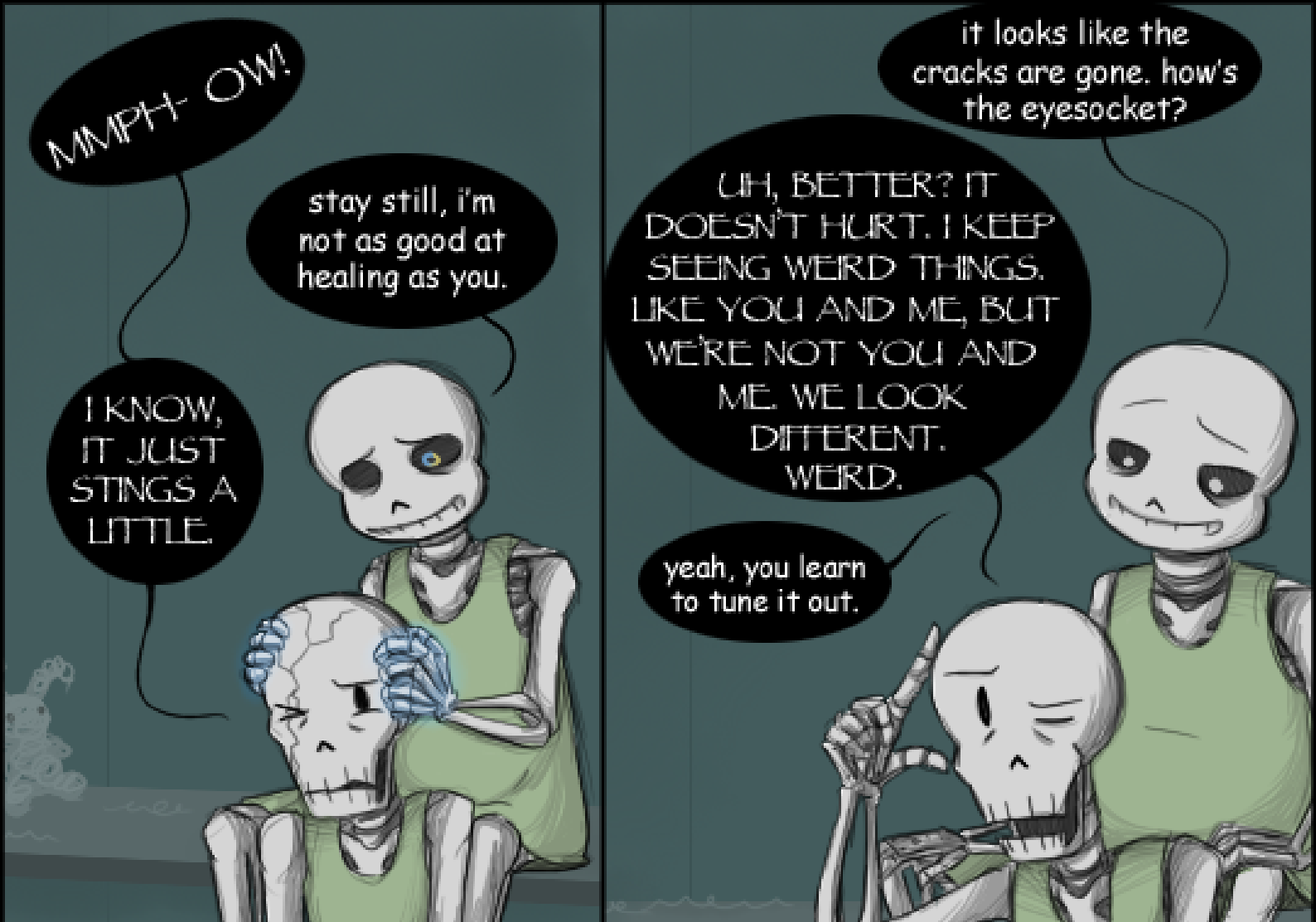
That is the
nature of ripping
things into pieces.

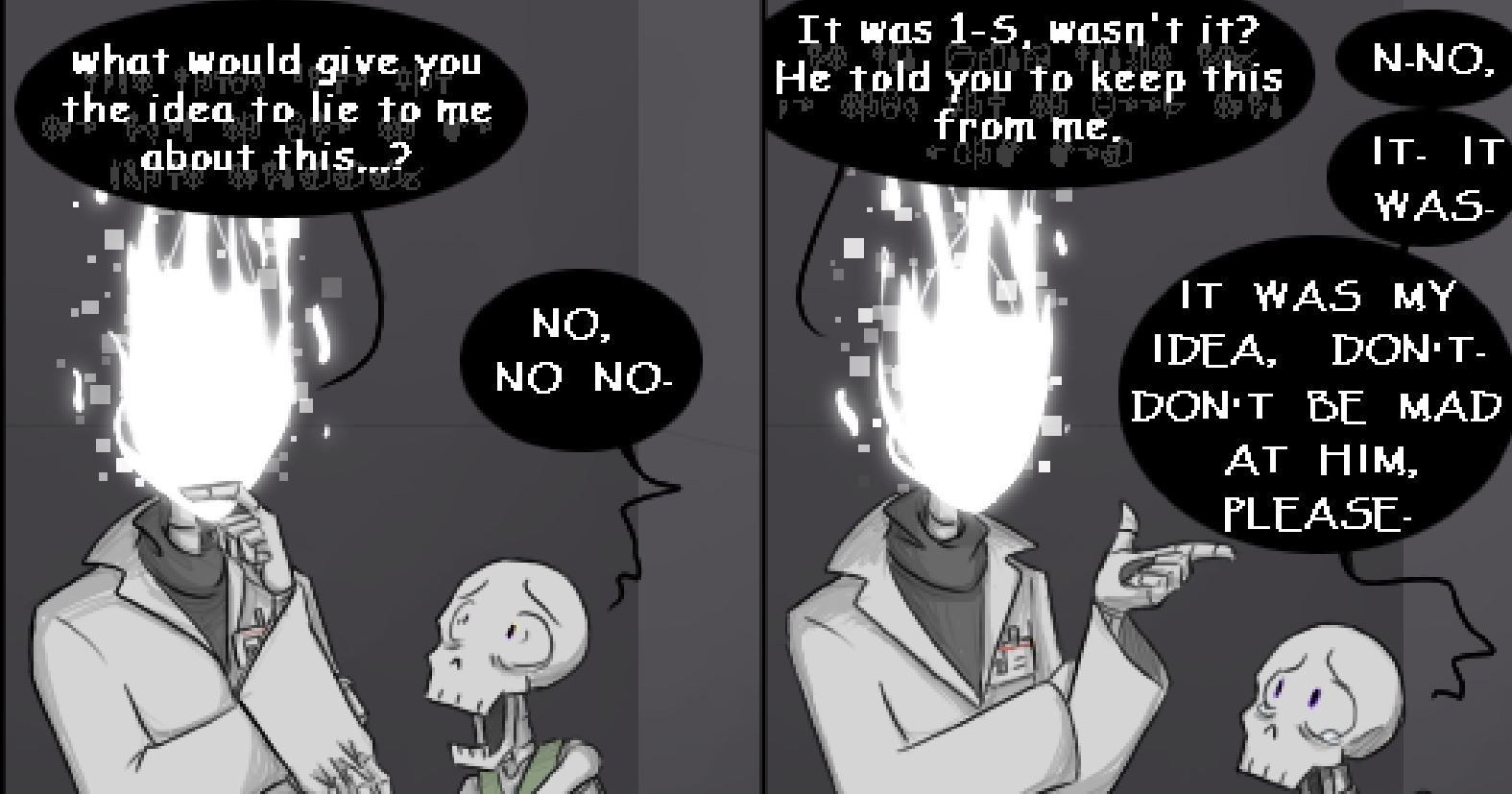
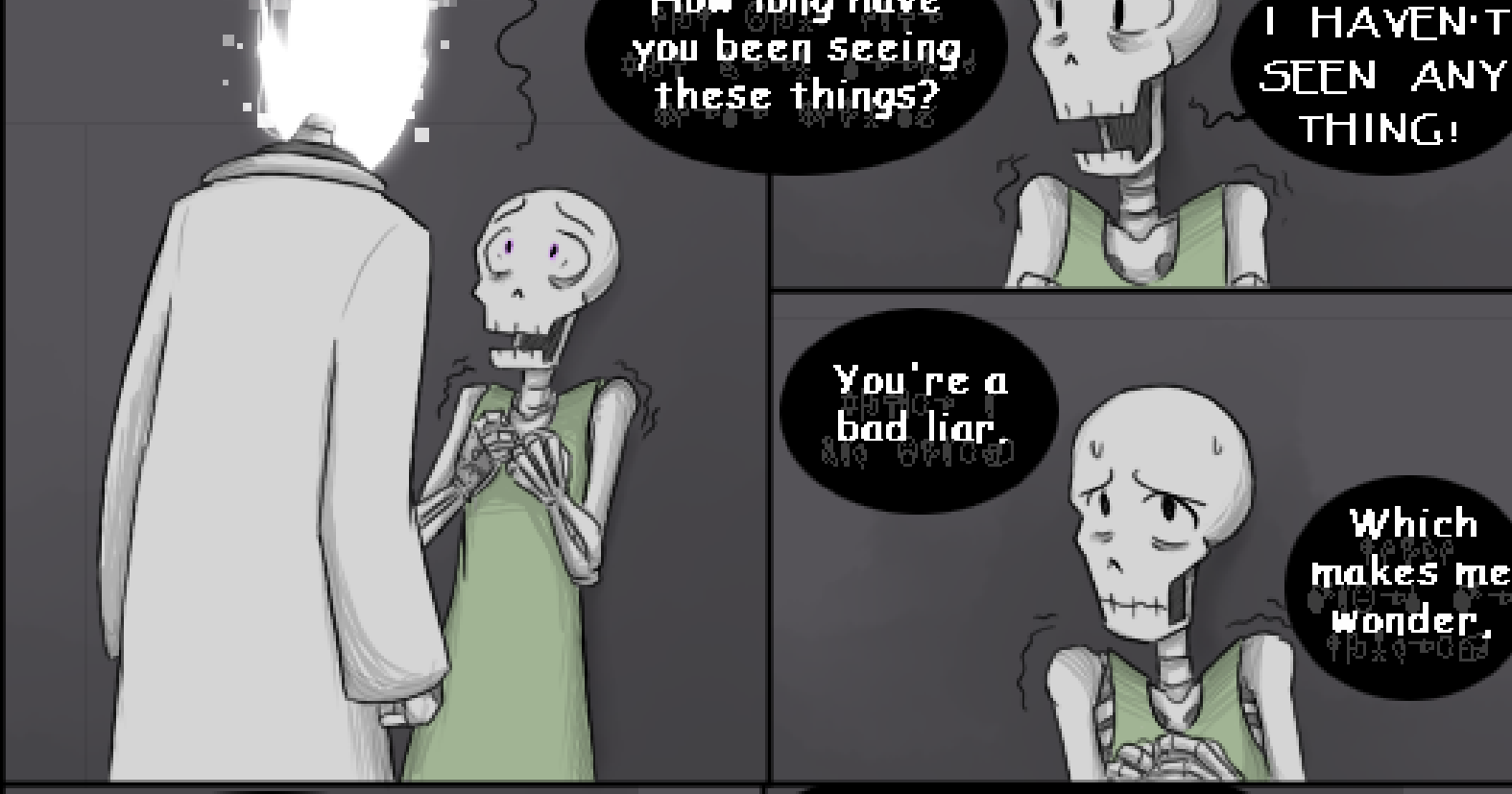
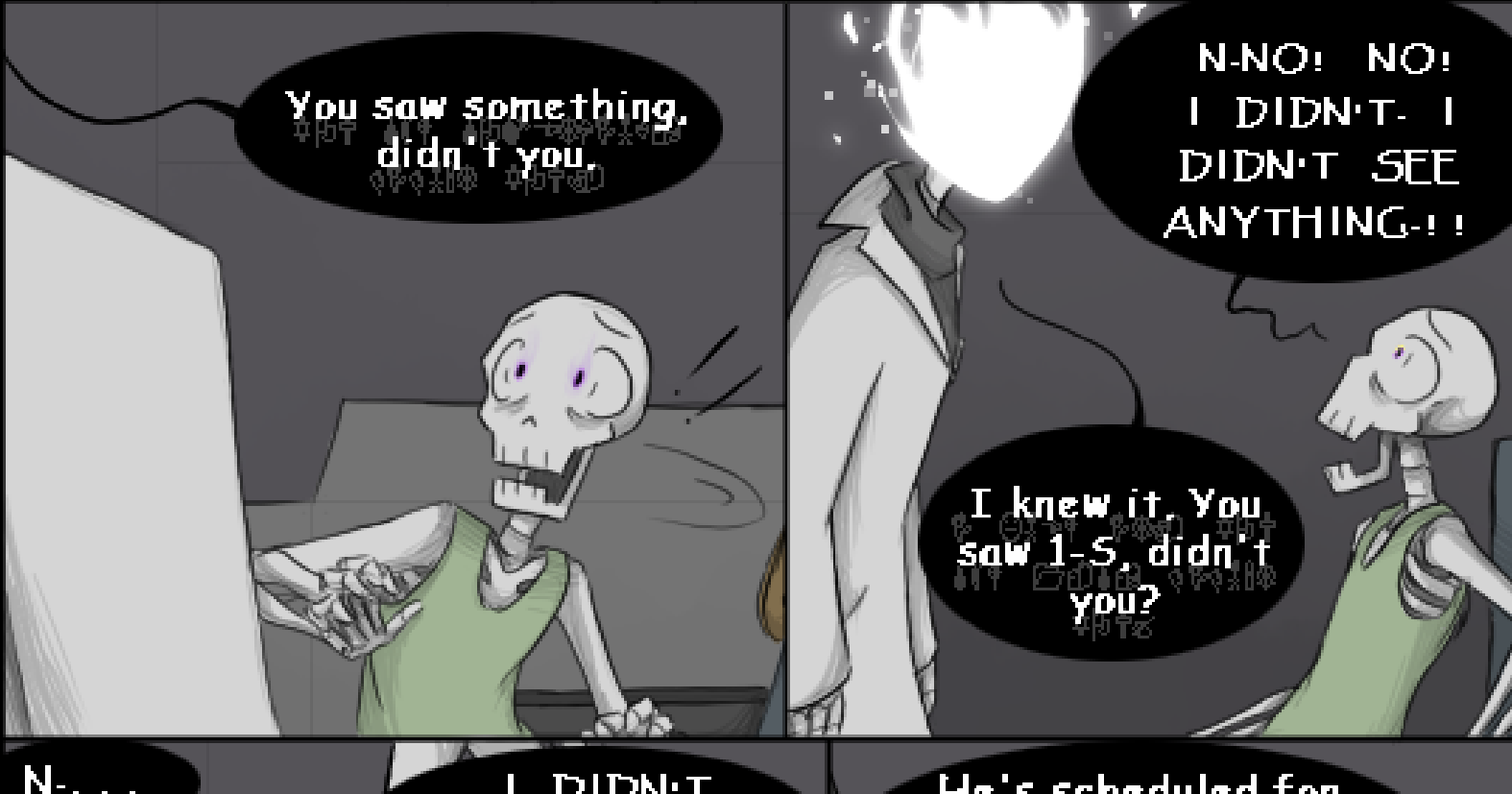
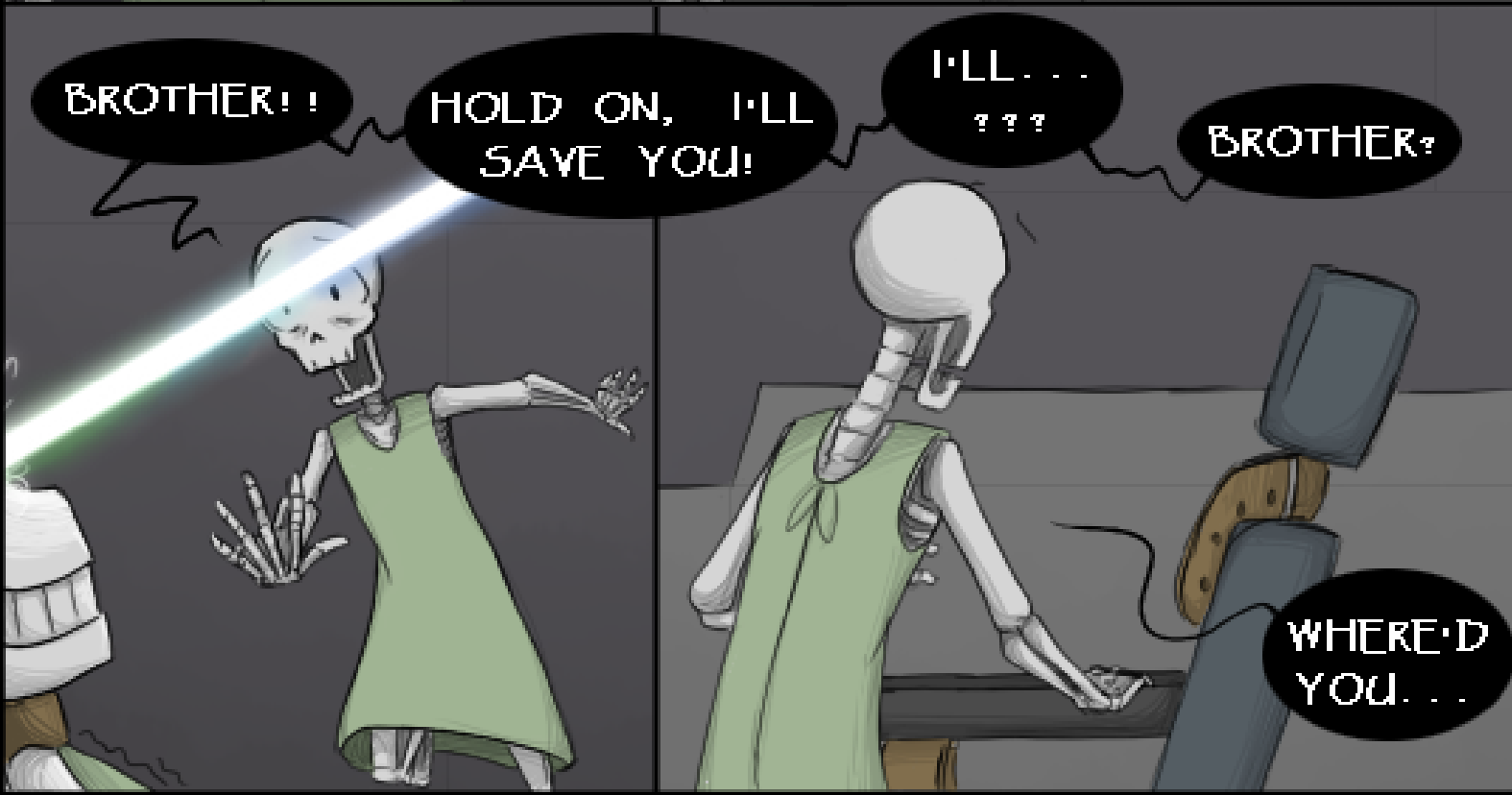
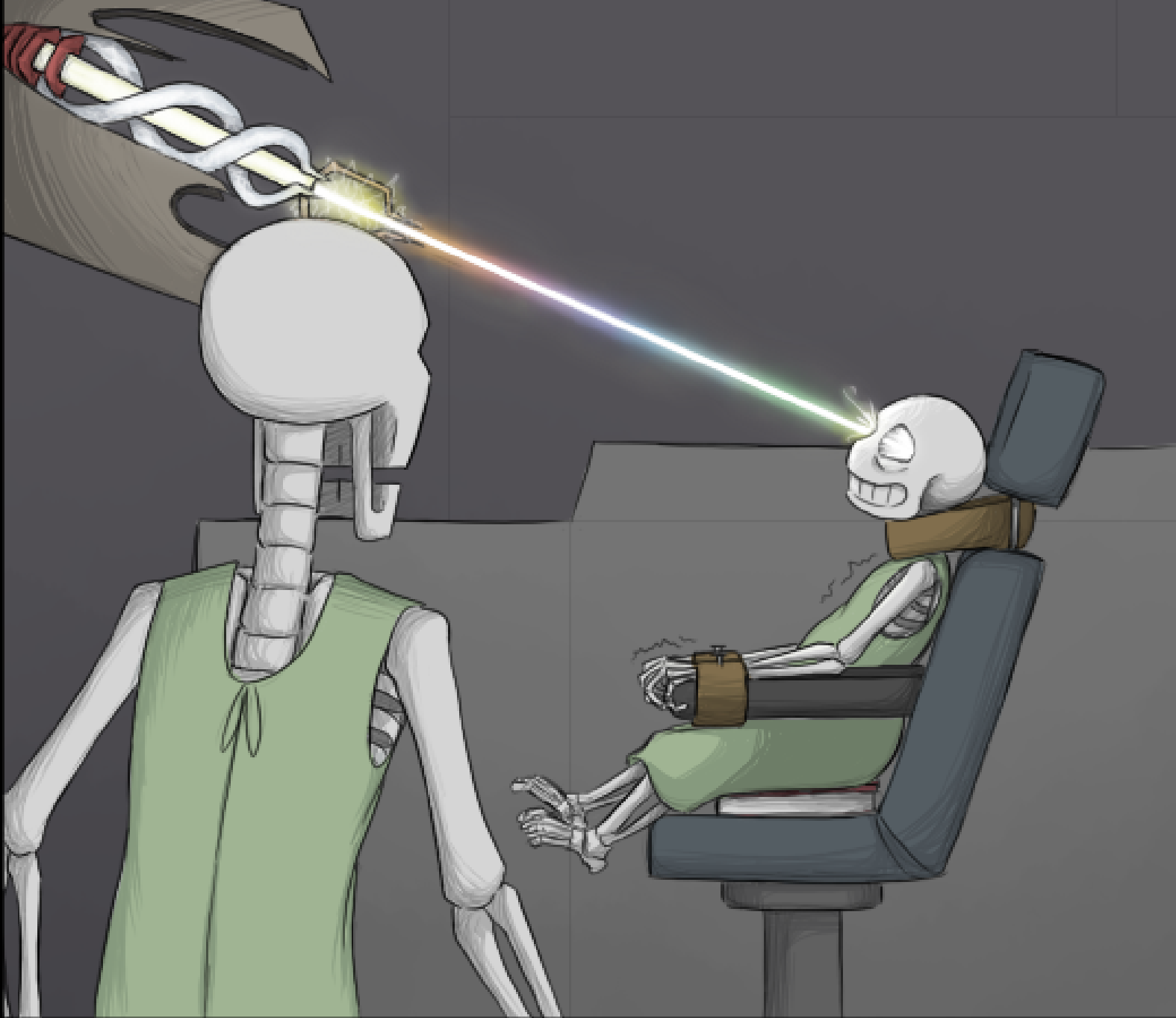
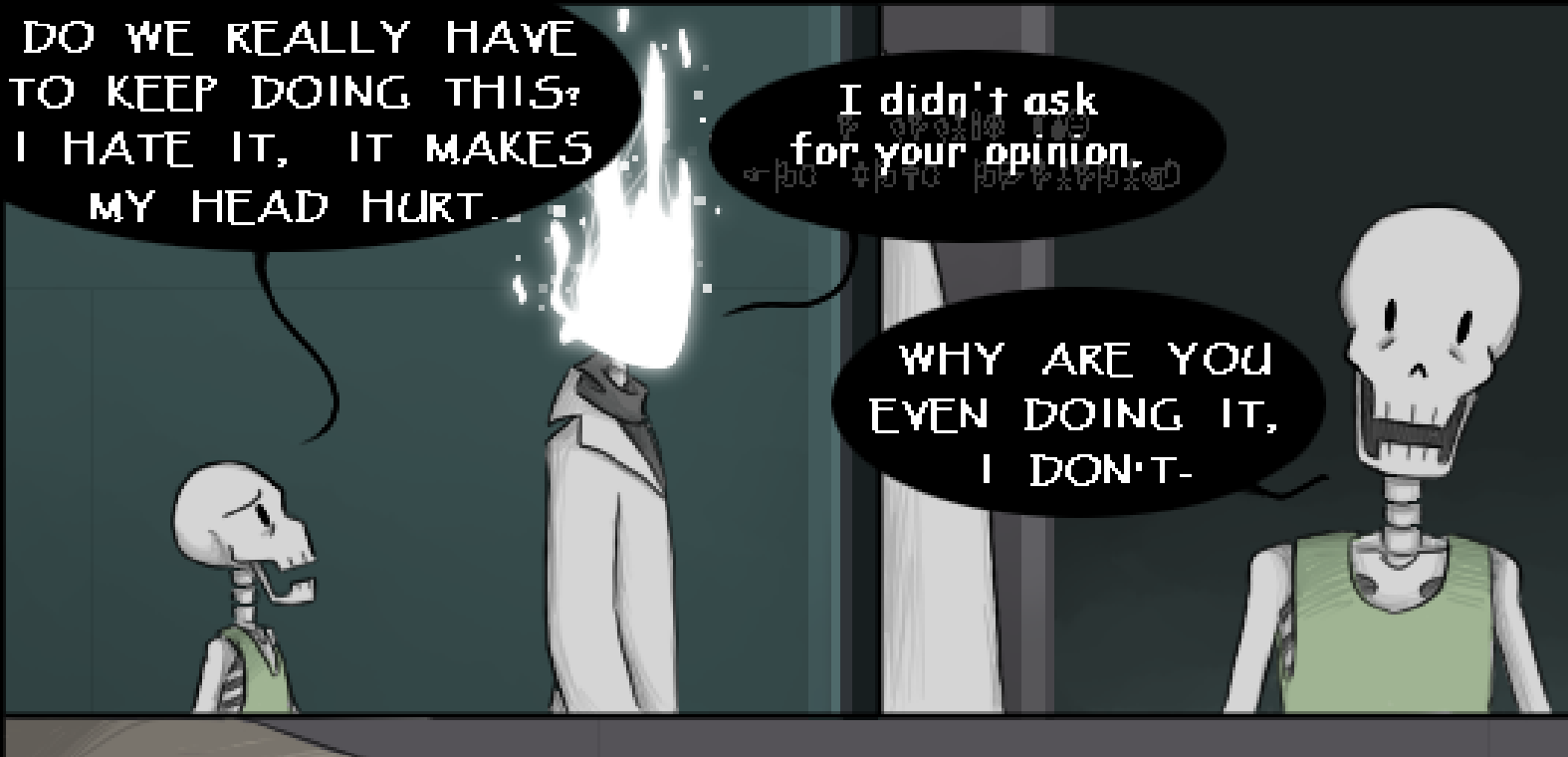


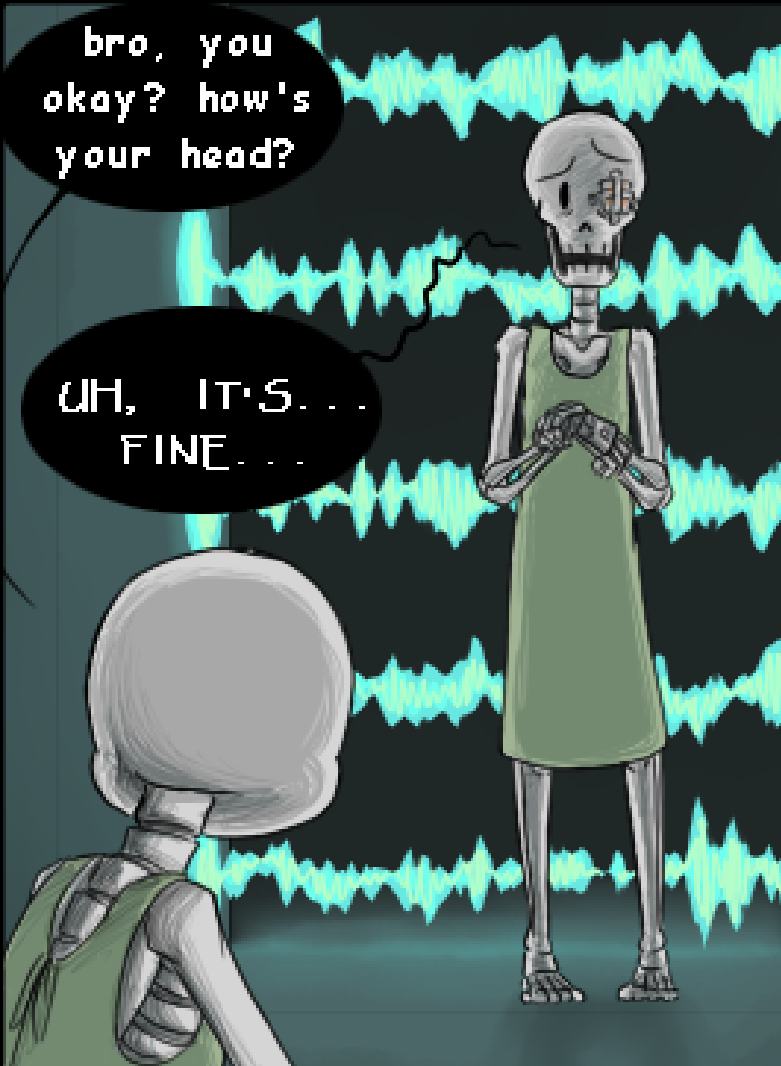
You cannot
expect
precision.



Come on, 2-P
is waiting.

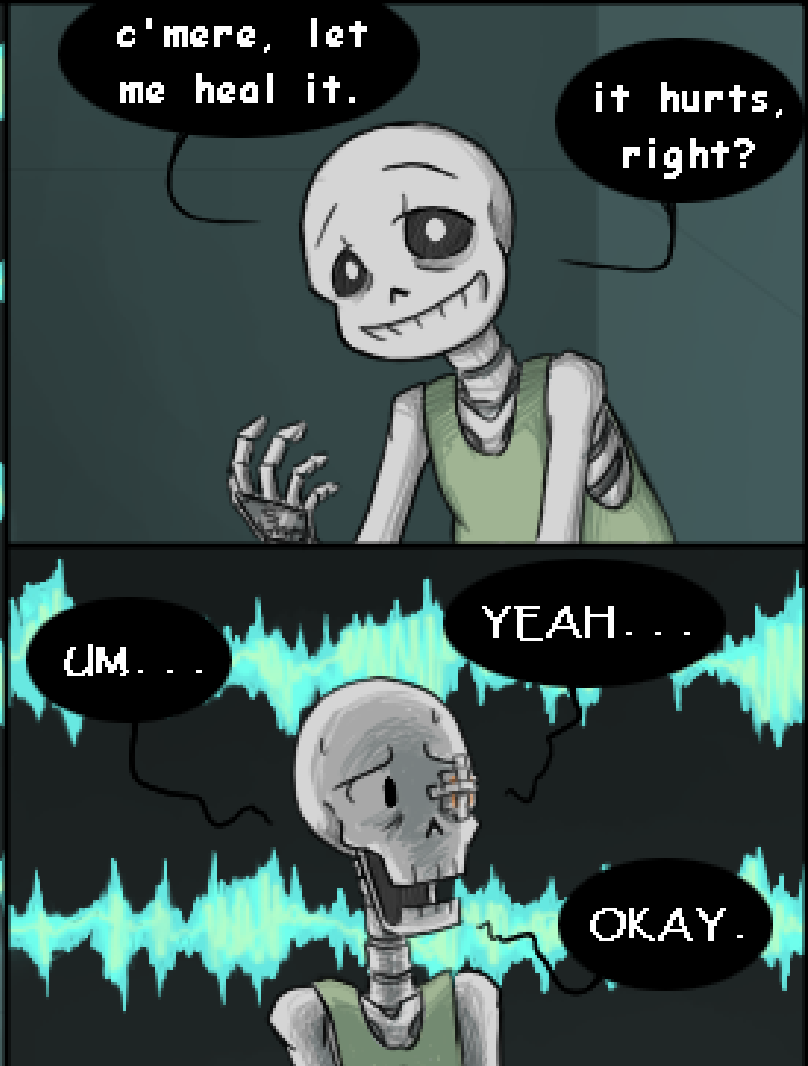






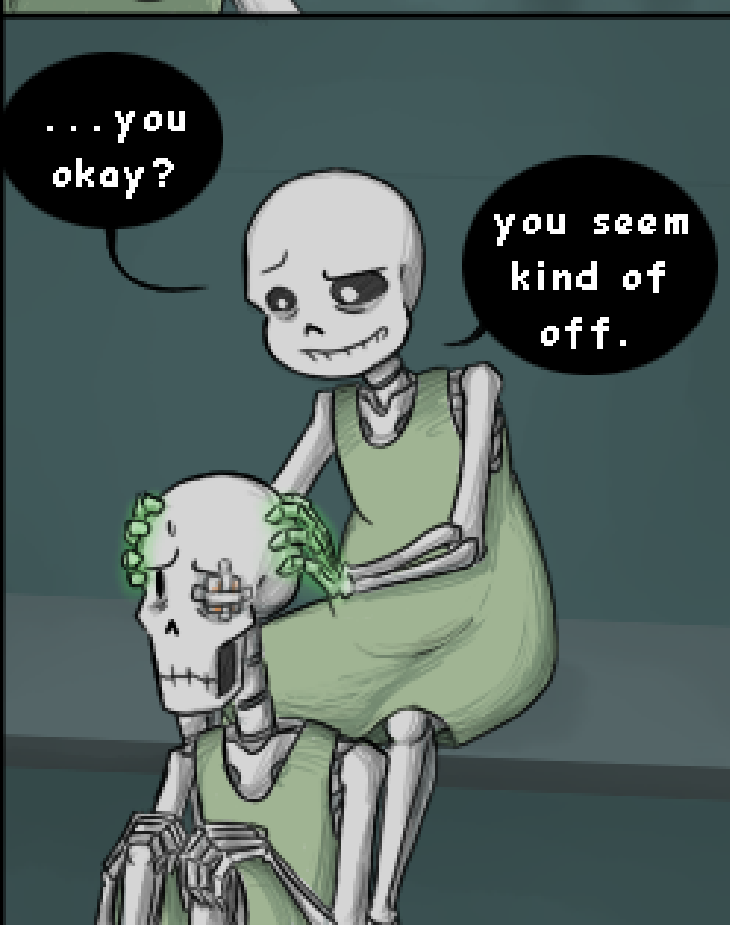
bro, you okay? how's your head?

UH, IT'S... FINE...



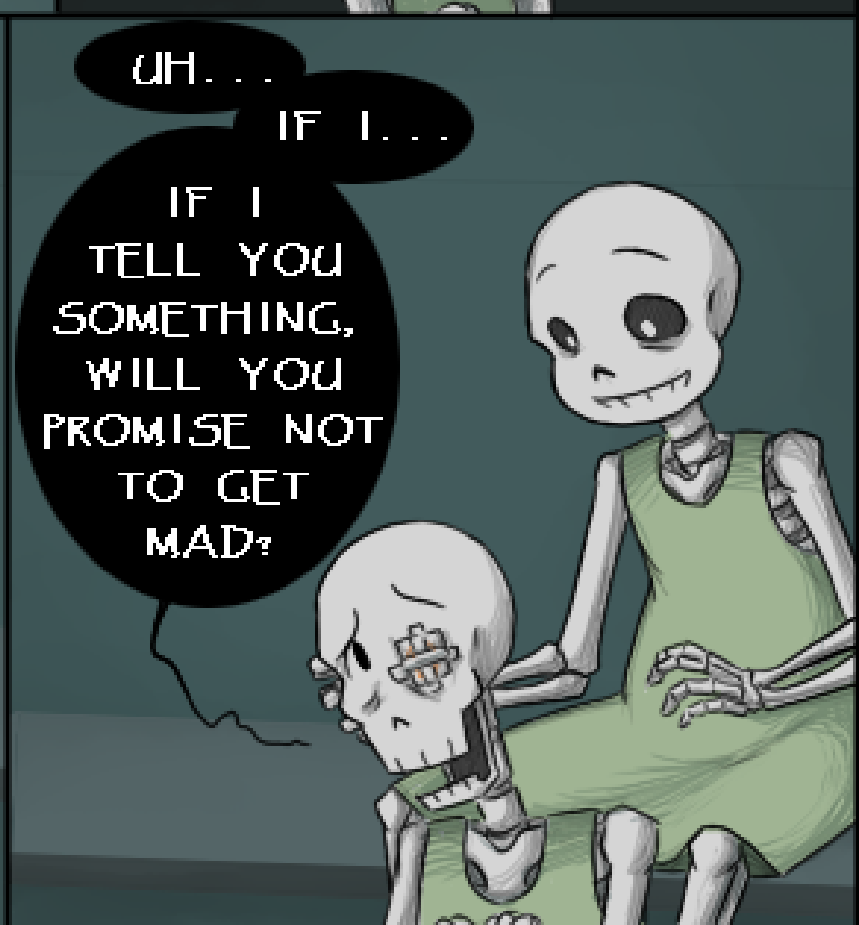
c'mere, let me heal it.

it hurts, right?



...you okay?

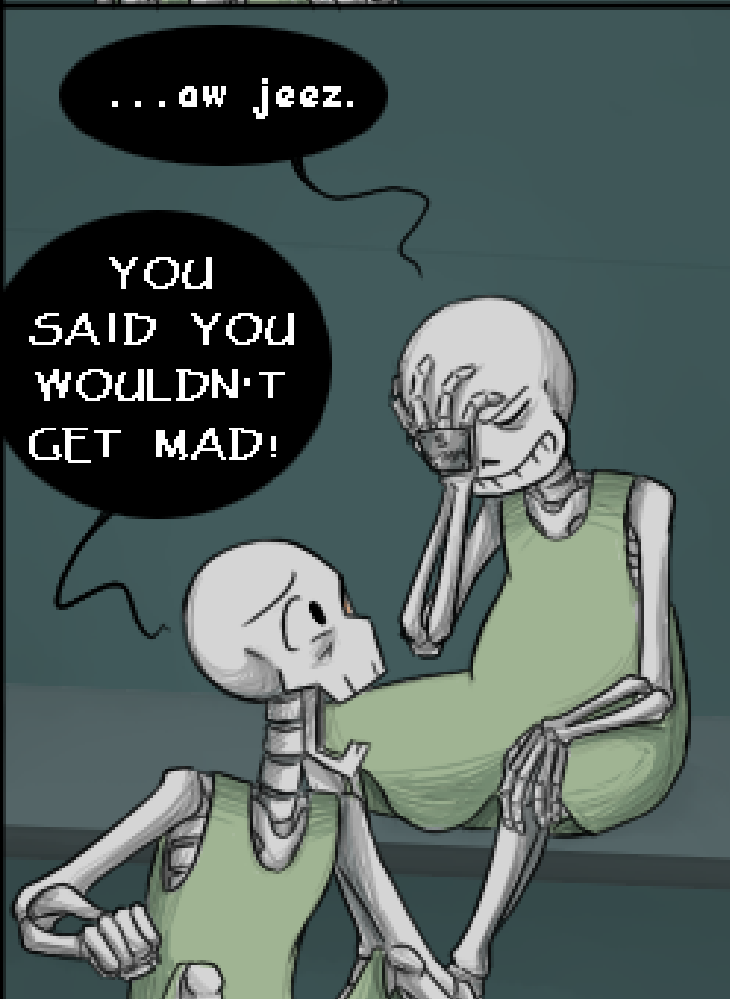
you seem kind of off.



UH...

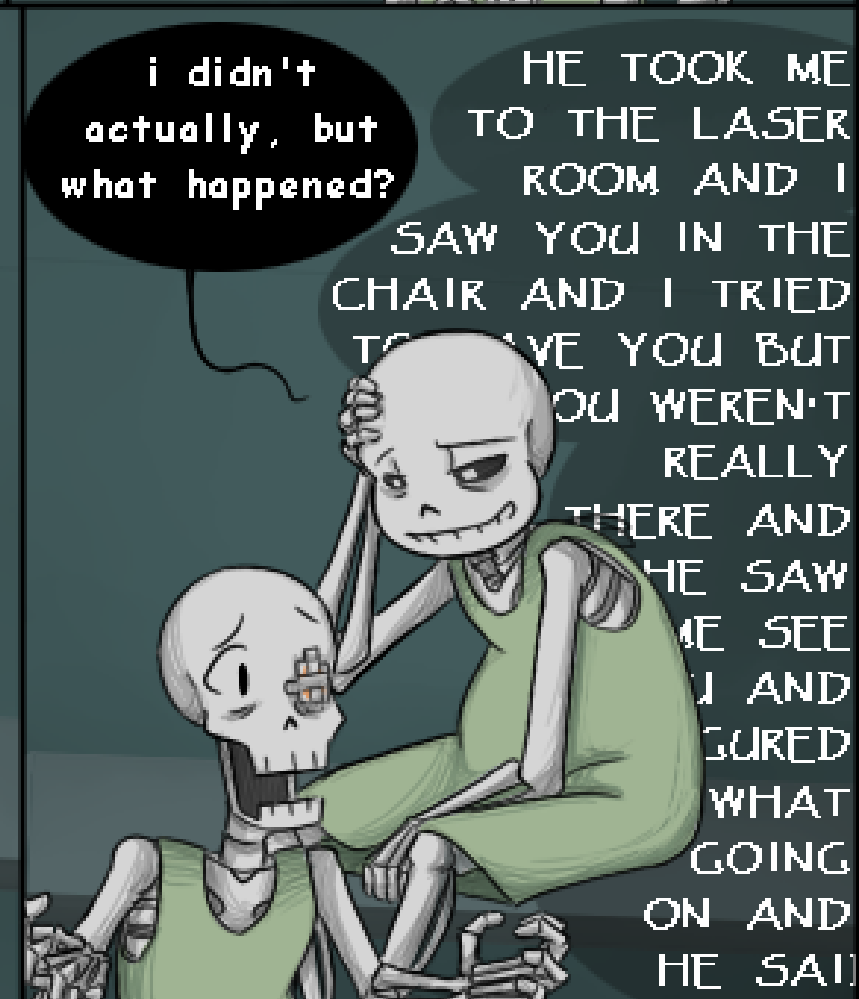
IF I...

IF I TELL YOU SOMETHING, WILL YOU PROMISE NOT TO GET MAD?



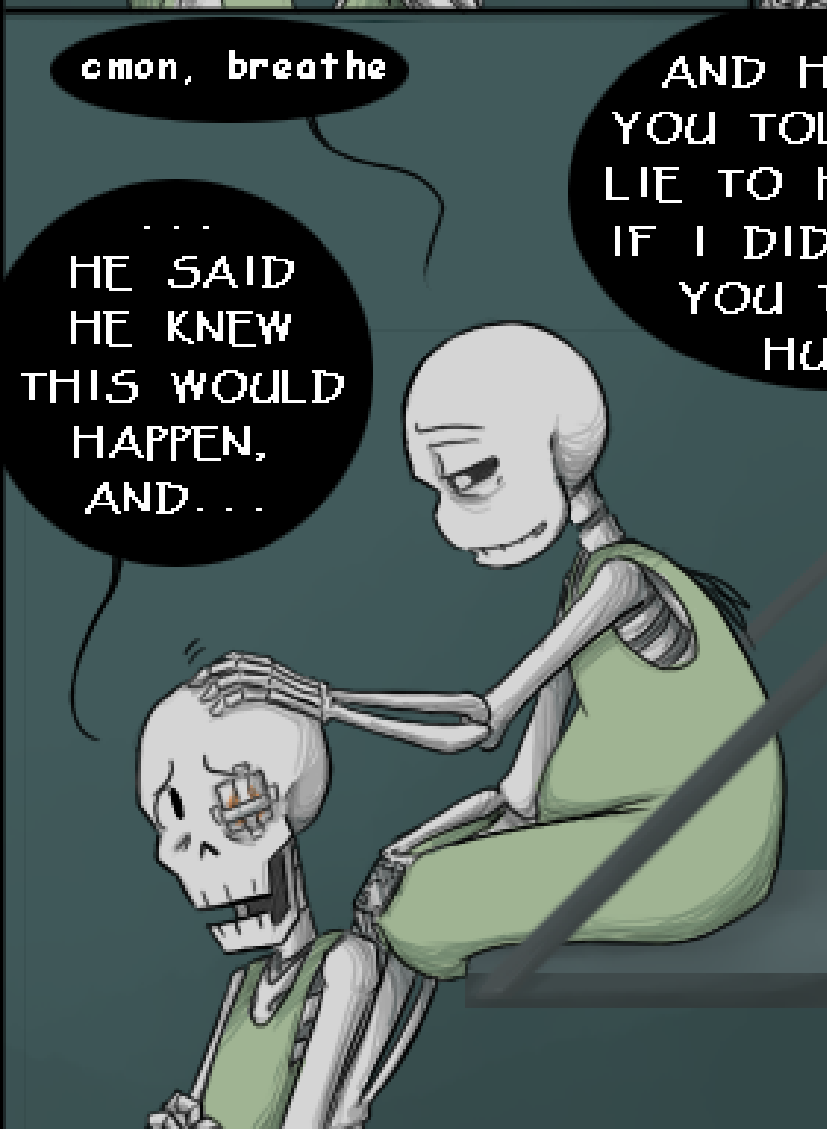
...aw jeez.

YOU SAID YOU WOULDN'T GET MAD!



i didn't actually, but what happened?

HE TOOK ME TO THE LASER ROOM AND I SAW YOU IN THE CHAIR AND I TRIED TO HAVE YOU BUT YOU WEREN'T REALLY THERE AND HE SAW ME SEE YOU AND FIGURED OUT WHAT WAS GOING ON AND HE SAID



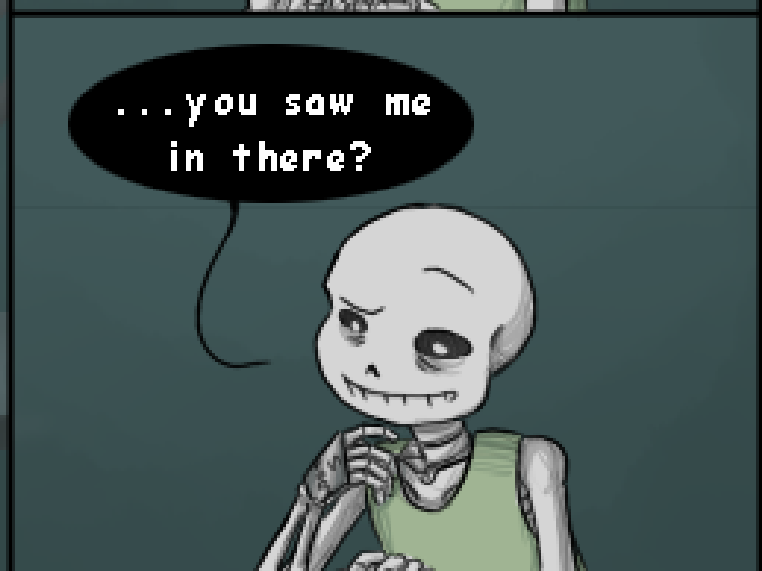
cmon, breathe

AND HE KNEW YOU TOLD ME TO LIE TO HIM, AND IF I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO GET HURT,

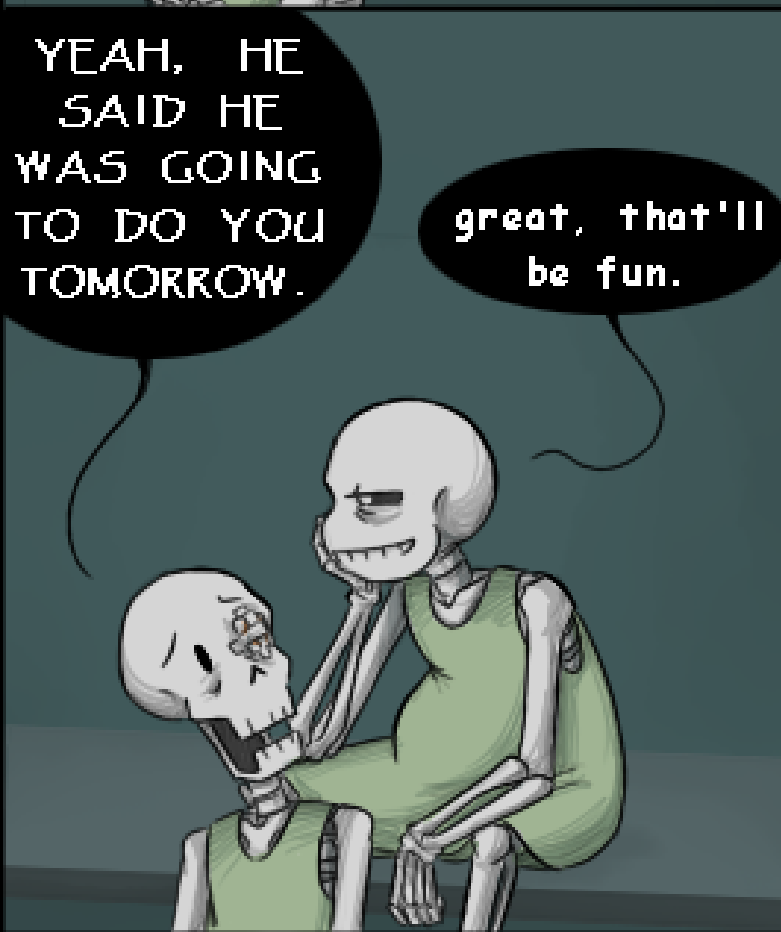
HE SAID HE KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN, AND...



I'D TELL HIM WHAT I SAW ...

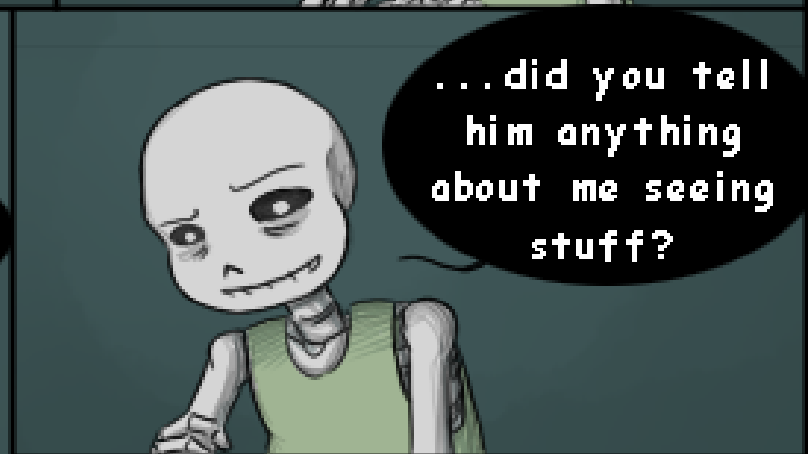


...you saw me in there?

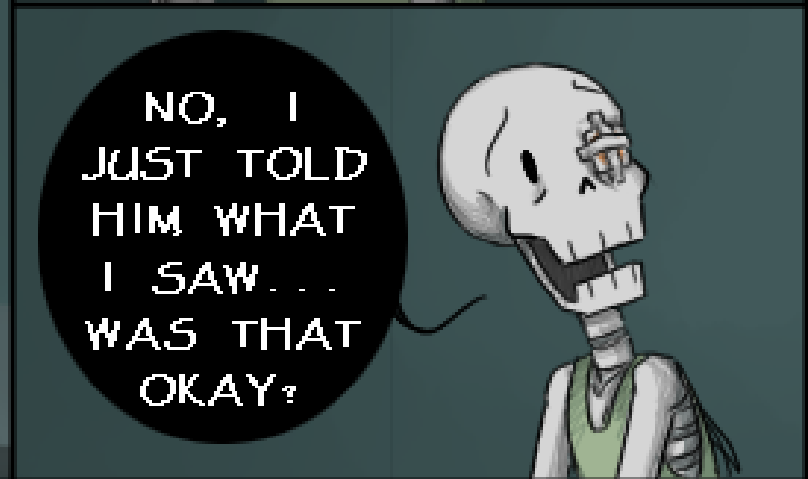


YEAH, HE SAID HE WAS GOING TO DO YOU TOMORROW.

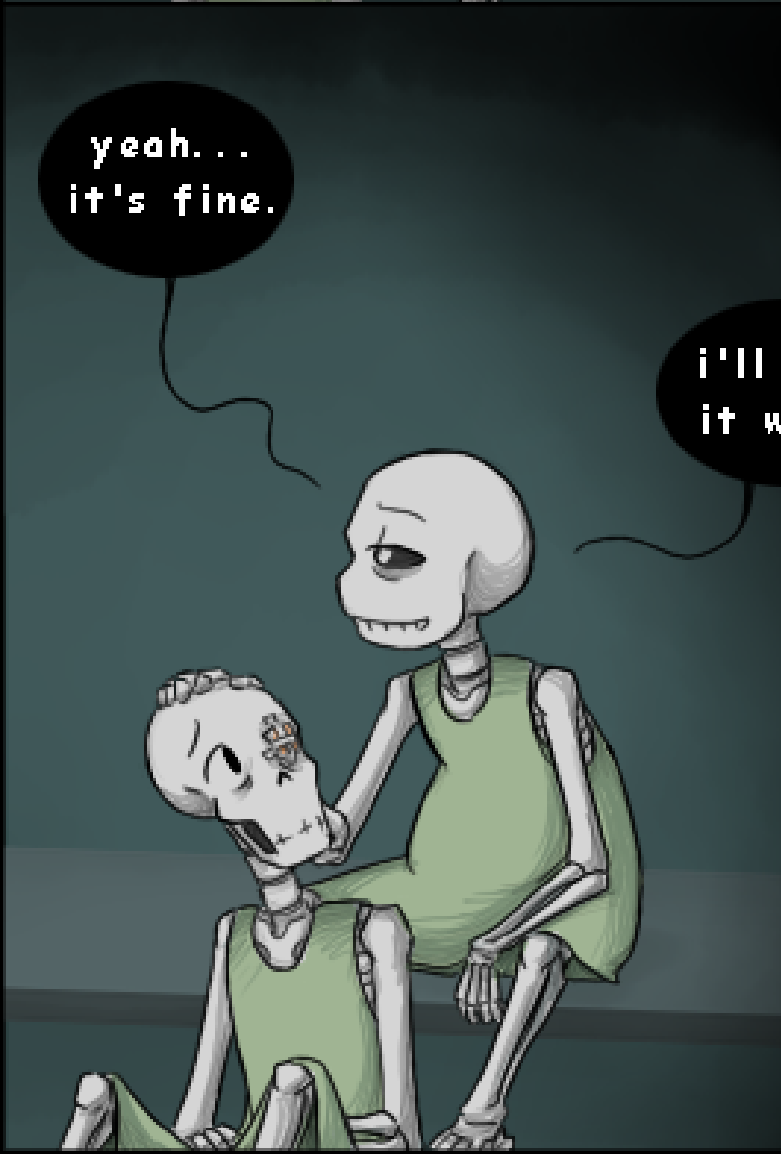
great, that'll be fun.



...did you tell him anything about me seeing stuff?



NO, I JUST TOLD HIM WHAT I SAW... WAS THAT OKAY?



yeah... it's fine.

i'll make it work.

just don't tell him anything else about me, okay?

OKAY.



G:\PROG\EXP\M\F50B-2\F5-TML-MON.ERE /G:8105

I DON'T LIKE THIS.

There's always an adjustment period with new things.

EMPTYING GAGHS

SCINMU INITI

MAGINP INITI

CHECKING FILE IN

ACCESSING DATABASE.....

MOUNTING STORAGE DRIVE.....

IT HURTS.

CHECKING MAGIC INPUT...

MAGIC INPUT SUCCESSFUL.

LOG CREATED AT TML-0001-00029-0L

REFERENCED CLEARED

BUT, I-I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING LATELY, I CAN'T CONTROL IT, IT JUST HAPPENS.

That's not what I mean.

Location-based glimpses are proof of concept, but not much use down here. What we are going to work on today is looking past this particular place.

The overflow of...

no, it'd be lost on you.

How to explain...

Your vision is still weak at this point, but it will grow stronger as you acclimate to each new dosage of magic.

DOSAGE? YOU MEAN THE LASER?

Yes, the laser.

Right now, you can see things where you are, but as your vision grows stronger,

you won't be limited by your location.

outside? ? What is?? white? blue?? green?? outside?? ?

That's what I'm going to assess today.

Now, close your eyes and focus your thoughts on the future. Describe what you see

THE FUTURE...?

UH...

I SEE...

UH, I SEE YOU!

AND YOU'RE...

UH, YOU'RE TAKING THOSE THINGS OFF OUR HANDS,

AND YOU'RE TELLING US YOU'RE GOING TO BE NICE TO US FROM NOW ON,

AND YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE US HOME WITH YOU, AND...

AND...

AND WE'RE ALL HAPPY,

AND IT'S REALLY NICE, SO...

SO NOW YOU HAVE TO DO THAT, RIGHT?

CAUSE THAT'S DEFINITELY WHAT I SEE, REALLY.

You're looking to the past. There's no point to that, it won't change.

Look forward.

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING.

Try harder.

I DON'T SEE ANY THING!

...As always, disappointing.

I'd projected you being able to at least-

NO. NO WAIT, I CAN DO IT! I CAN DO IT!!

I CAN DO IT,

LET ME TRY AGAIN,

PLEASE...

Hmm.

NNH, MY HEAD REALLY HURTS. DID IT WORK? DID I DO A GOOD JOB?

You're below expectations. I'll have to shift my timetable. At least this data will provide a good baseline for other things...

I TRIED REALLY, REALLY HARD... I REALLY WANTED TO SEE SOMETHING, I DID!

I KNOW I CAN DO IT... OW, OW OW...

There's always an adjustment period. 1-5 can deal with the headache.

I have work to do.

00042.....	NEG.....	1<
00042.....	NEG.....	1<
00043.....	NEG.....	1<
00044.....	POS.....	<8
00045.....	POS.....	<10
00046.....	POS.....	<10
00047.....	POS.....	<6
00048.....	POS.....	<10
00049.....	POS.....	<8
00050.....	POS.....	<7

2D.TML SAVED

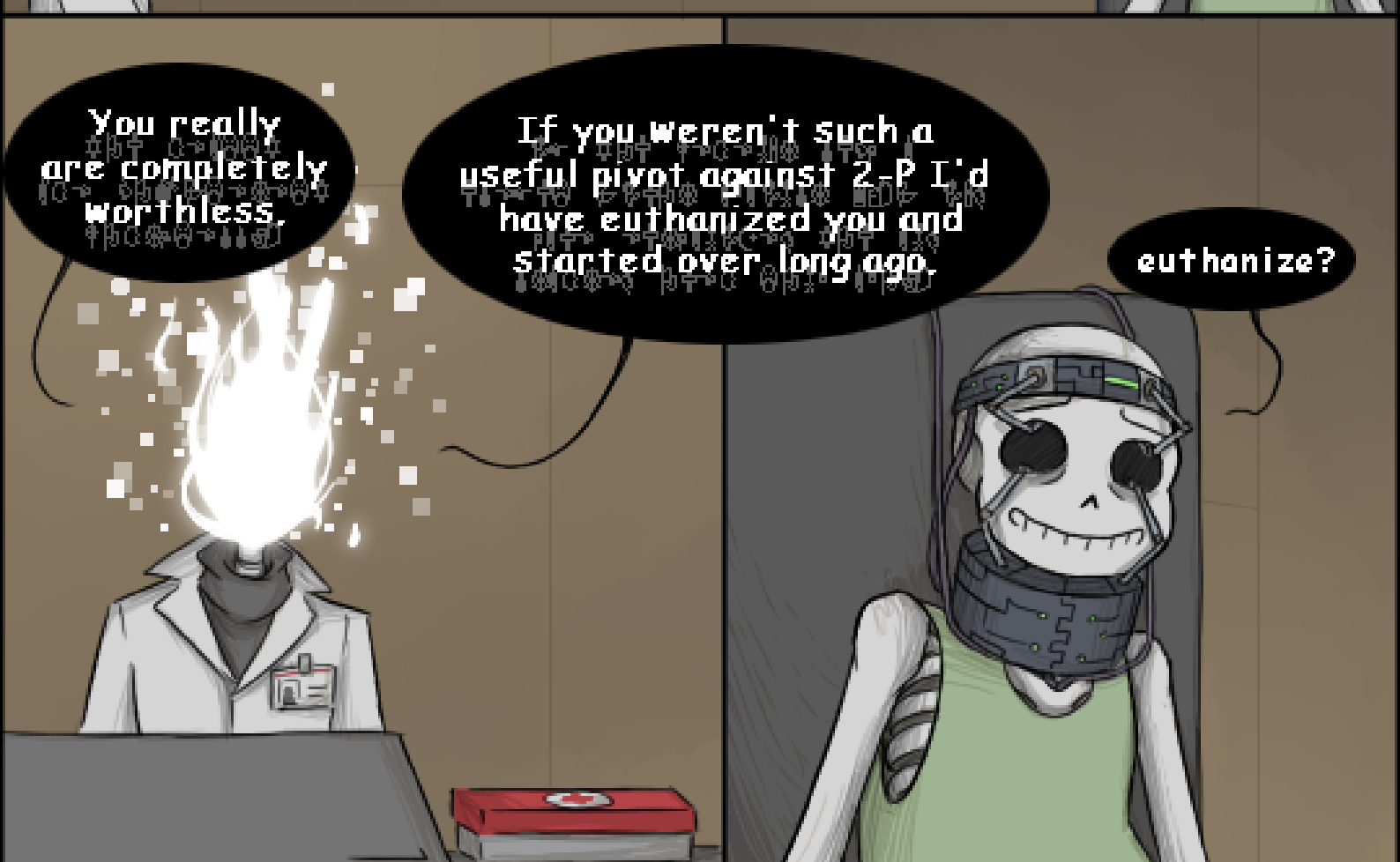
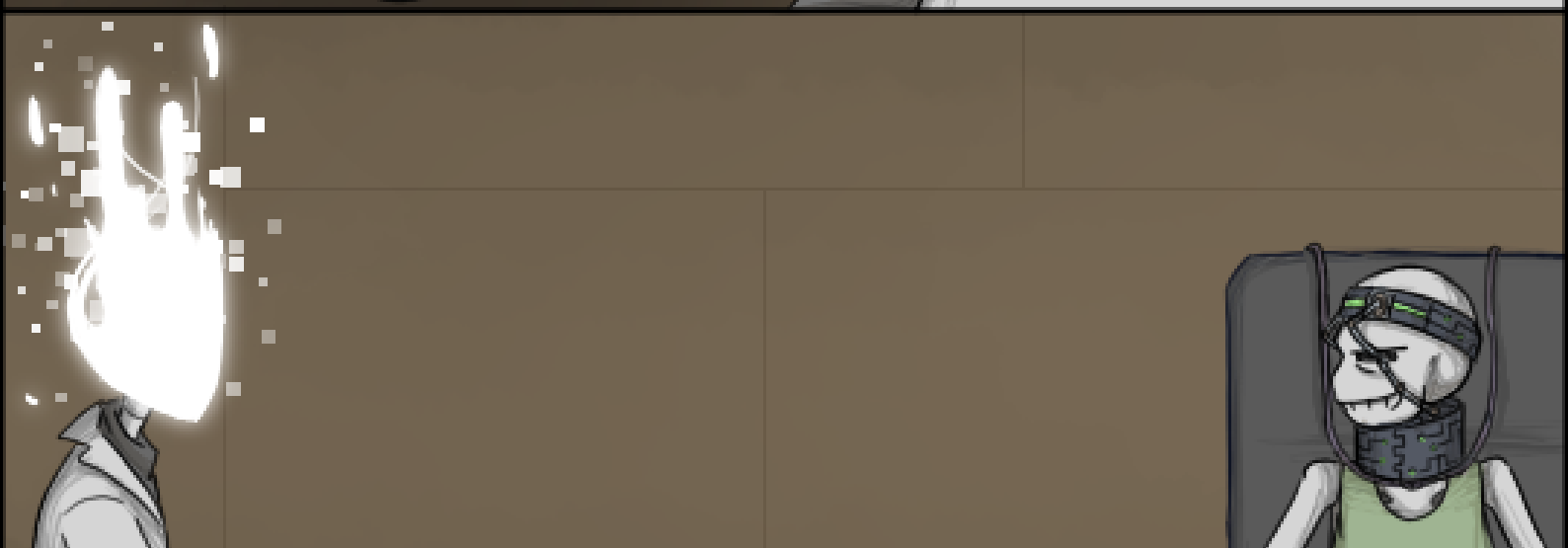


So, you still insist that you can't see anything.

nope.

Despite these readings, the same as 2-P's whenever he's seeing something, that clearly indicate otherwise.

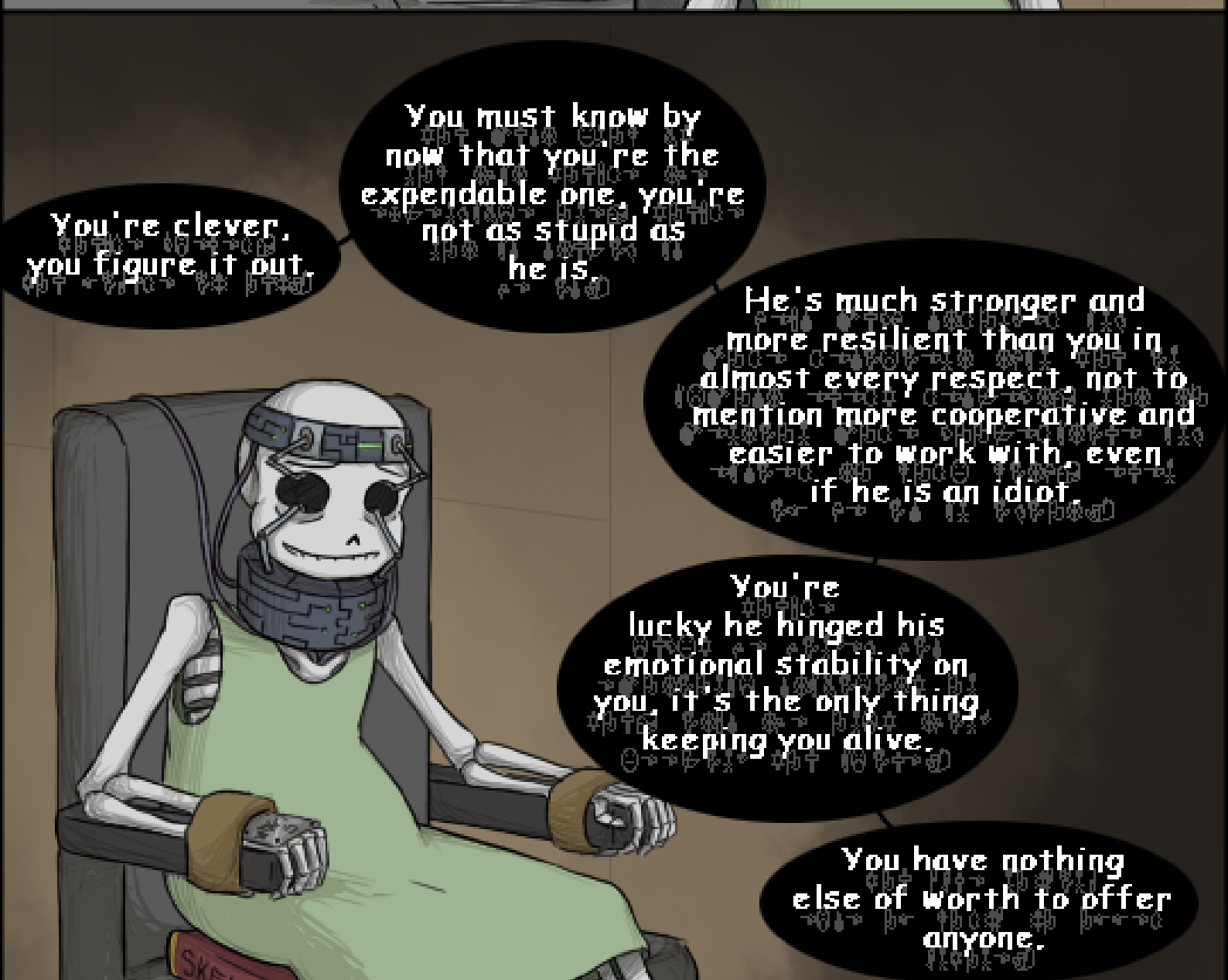
what can i tell you.



You really are completely worthless.

If you weren't such a useful pivot against 2-P I'd have euthanized you and started over long ago.

euthanize?



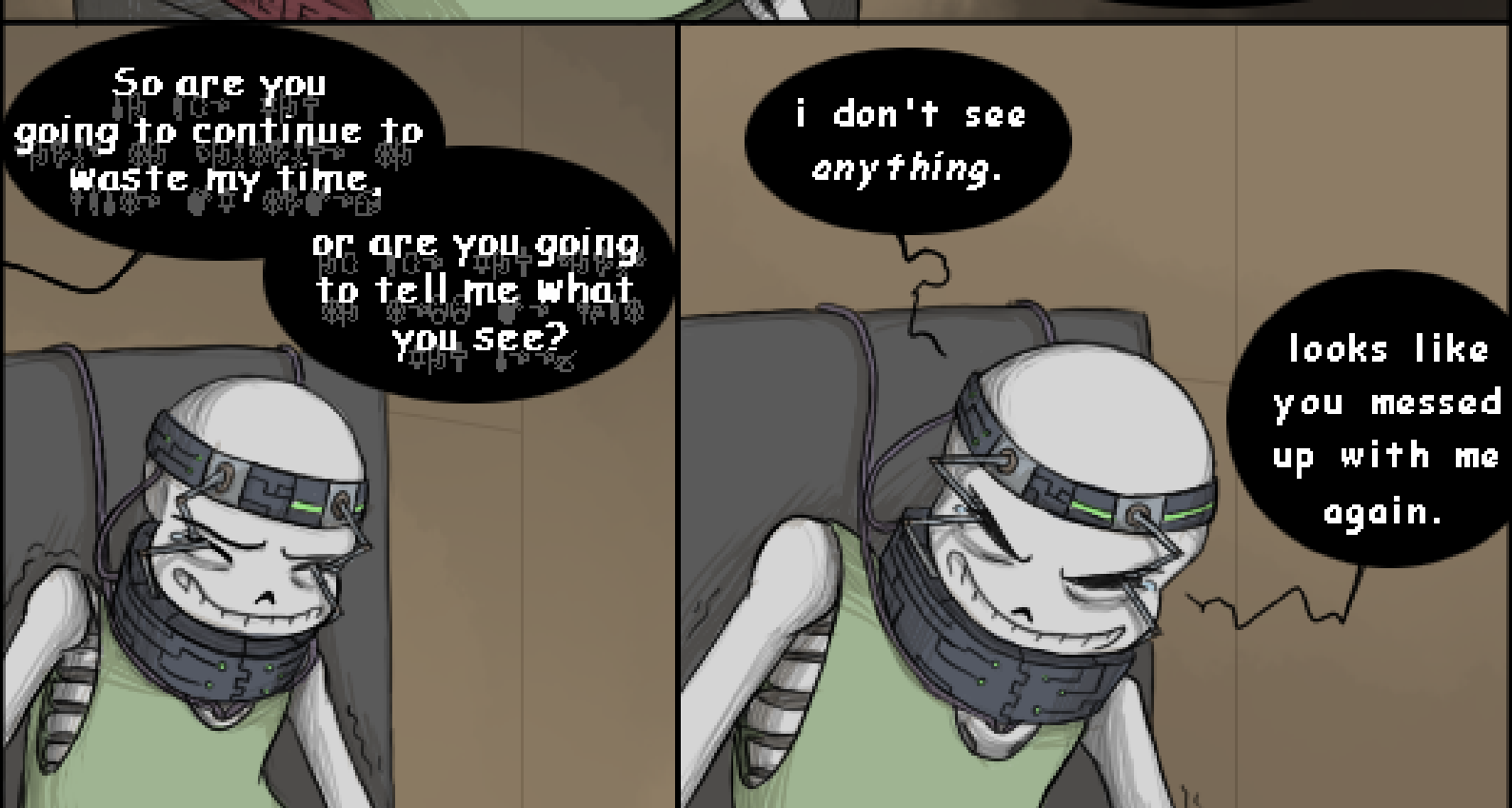
You're clever, you figure it out.

You must know by now that you're the expendable one, you're not as stupid as he is.

He's much stronger and more resilient than you in almost every respect, not to mention more cooperative and easier to work with, even if he is an idiot.

You're lucky he hinged his emotional stability on you, it's the only thing keeping you alive.

You have nothing else of worth to offer anyone.



So are you going to continue to waste my time,

or are you going to tell me what you see?

i don't see anything.

looks like you messed up with me again.



Alright, if that's how you want to do this.

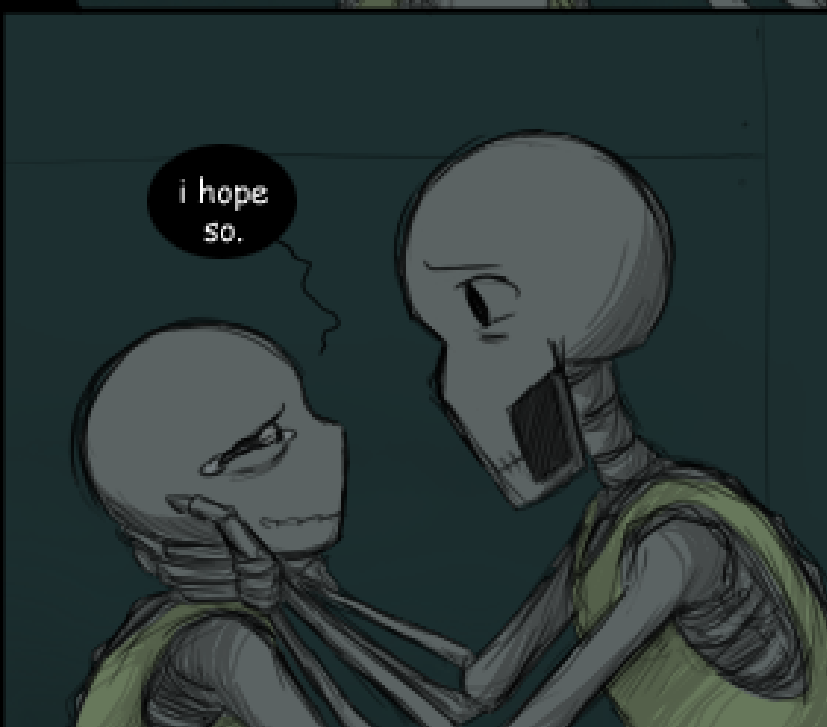
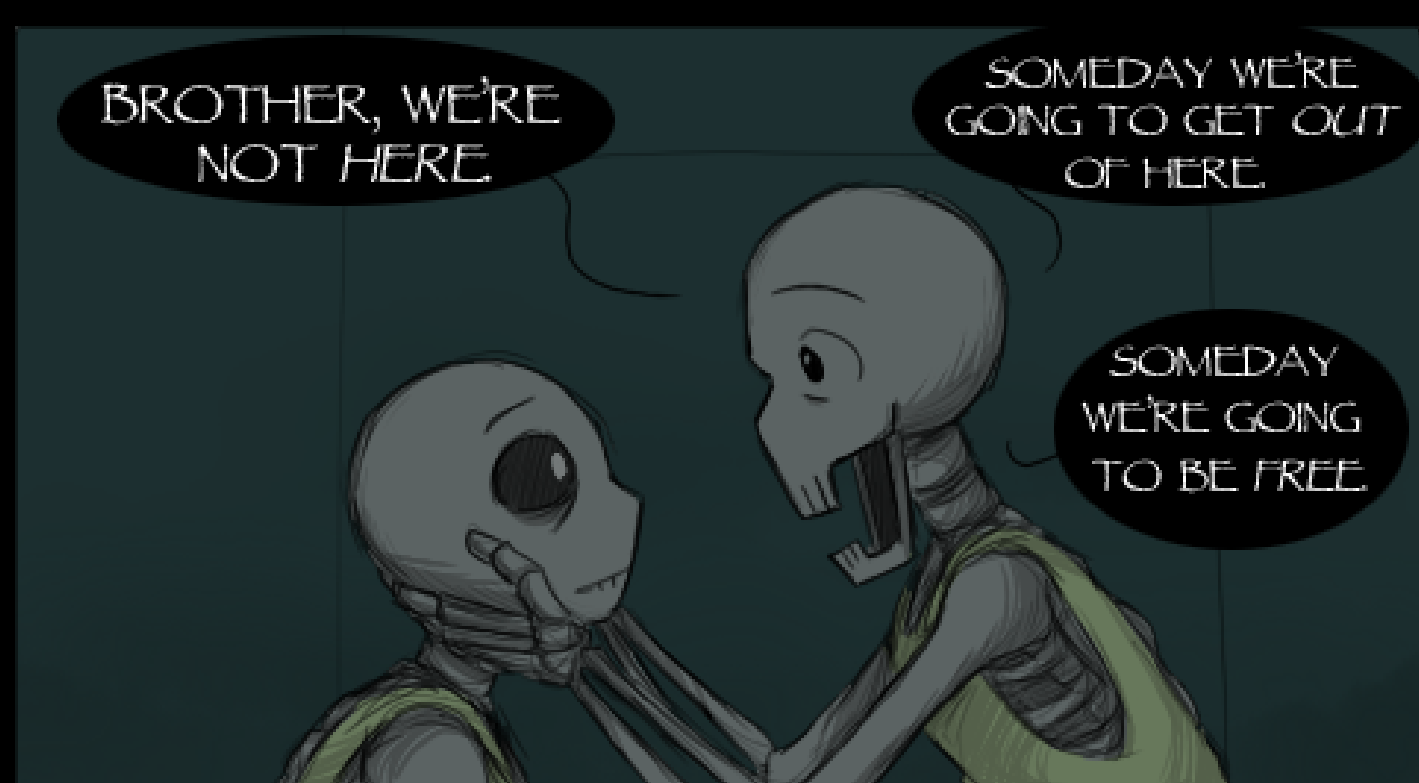
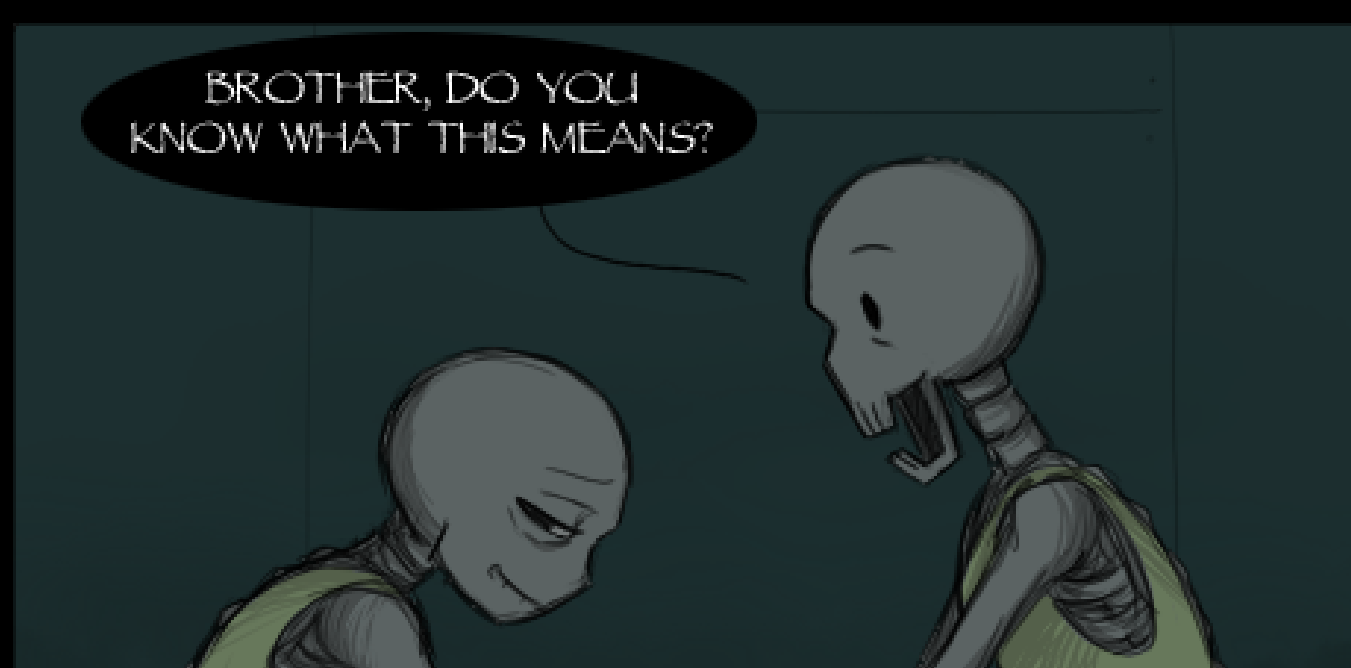
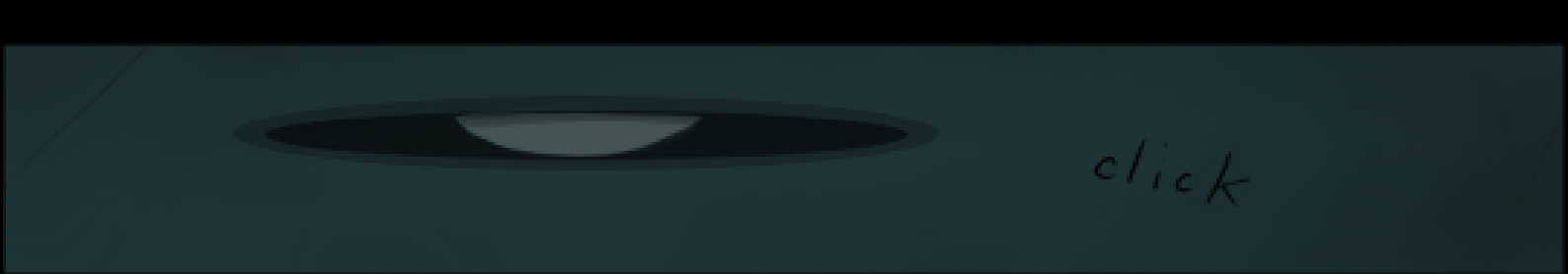
If you can't see anything,

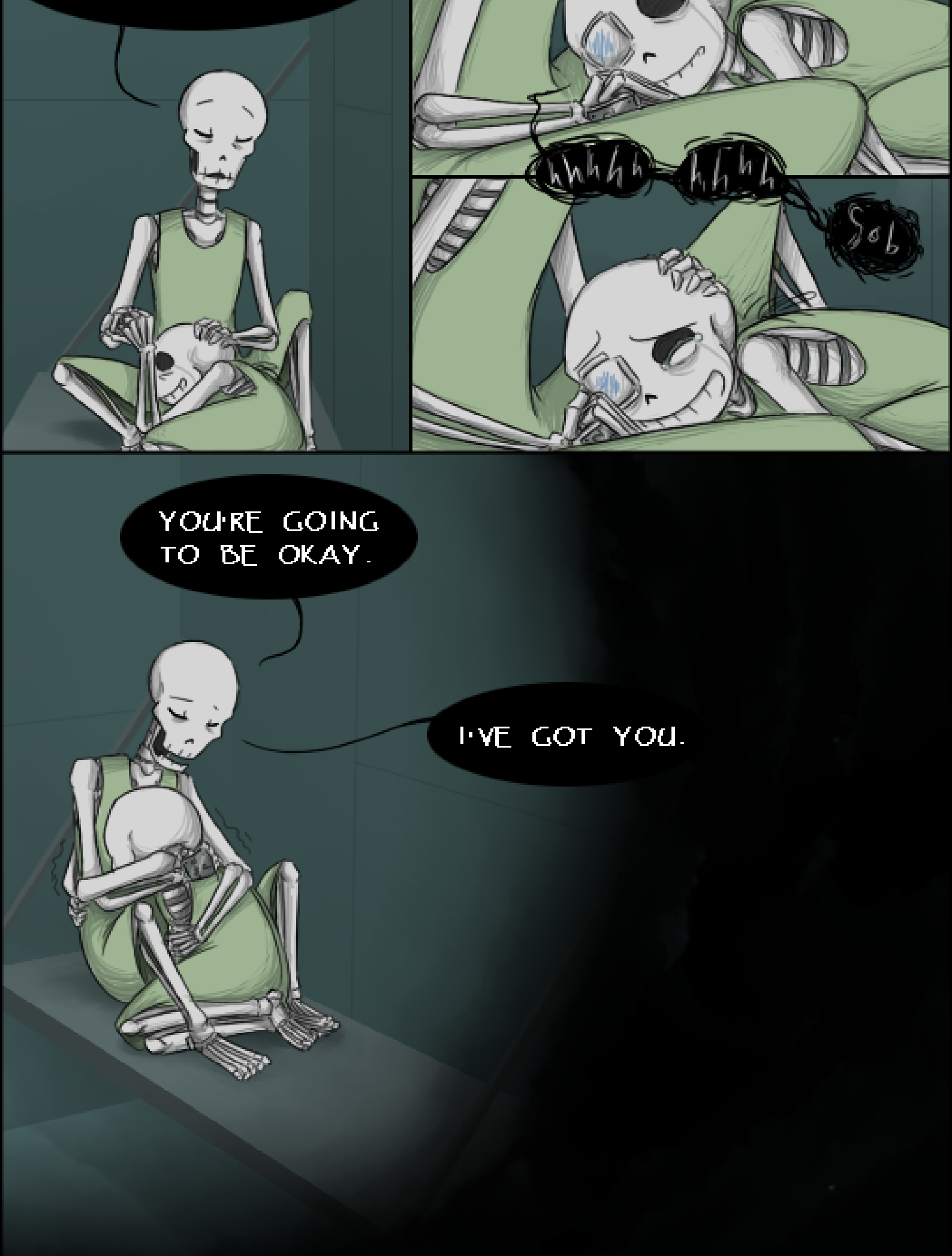
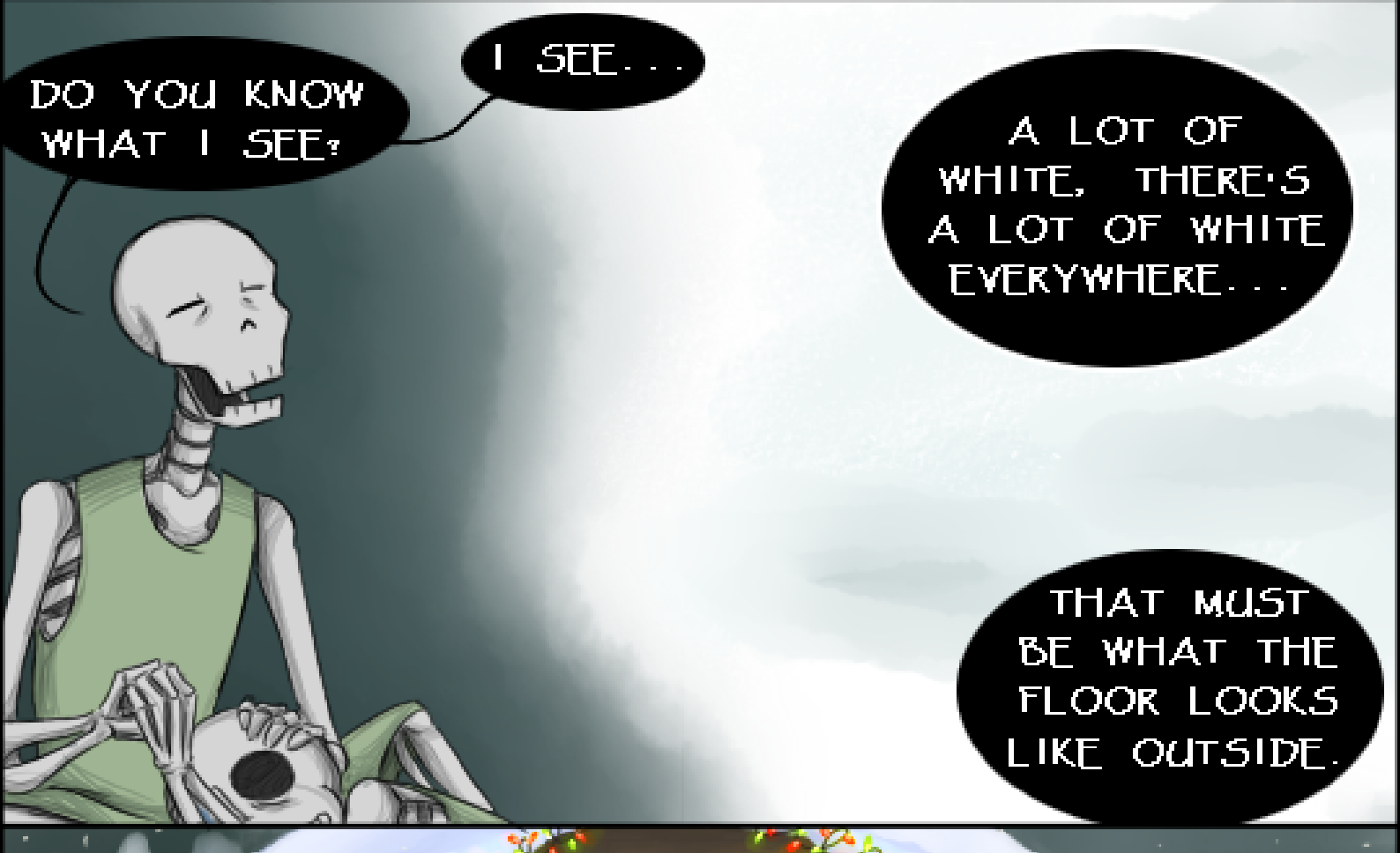
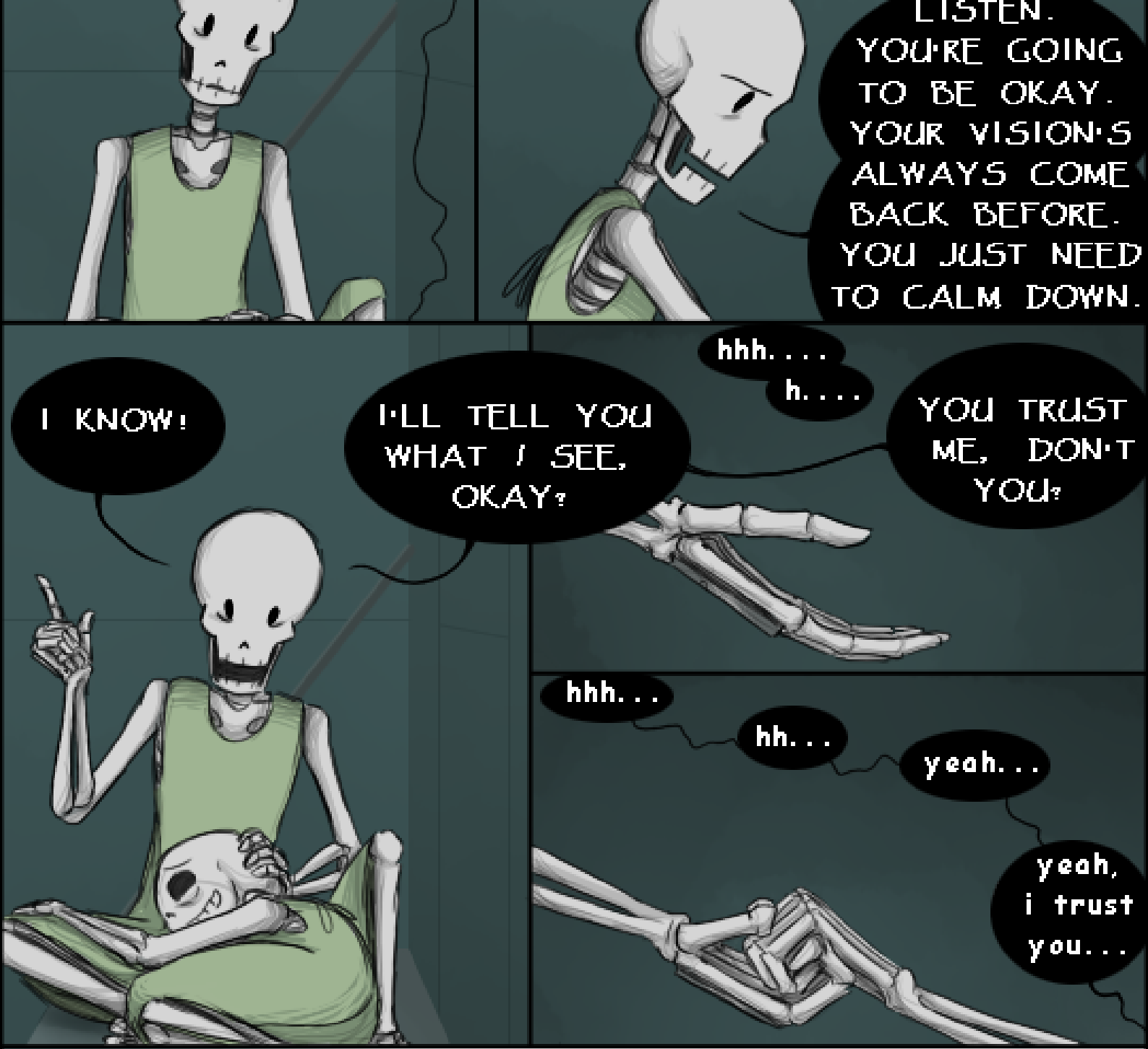
then the emitter sessions will continue until you do.



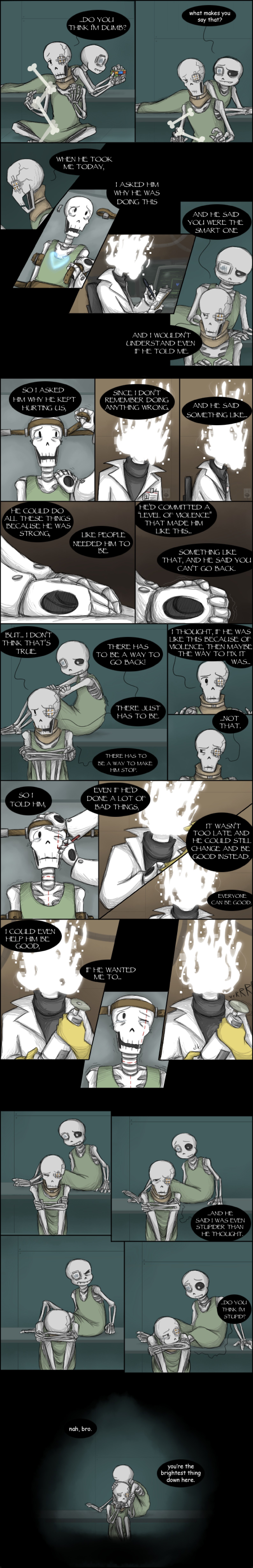
ARE YOU OKAY?

YOU'VE BEEN REALLY QUIET...





AS LONG AS
WE'RE TOGETHER,
WE'LL BE OKAY.



...DO YOU THINK I'M DUMB?

what makes you say that?

WHEN HE TOOK ME TODAY,

I ASKED HIM WHY HE WAS DOING THIS

AND HE SAID YOU WERE THE SMART ONE

AND I WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND EVEN IF HE TOLD ME.

SO I ASKED HIM WHY HE KEPT HURTING US,

SINCE I DON'T REMEMBER DOING ANYTHING WRONG.

AND HE SAID SOMETHING LIKE...

HE COULD DO ALL THESE THINGS BECAUSE HE WAS STRONG,

LIKE PEOPLE NEEDED HIM TO BE

HE'D COMMITTED A "LEVEL OF VIOLENCE" THAT MADE HIM LIKE THIS...

SOMETHING LIKE THAT, AND HE SAID YOU CAN'T GO BACK.

BUT... I DON'T THINK THAT'S TRUE.

THERE HAS TO BE A WAY TO GO BACK!

I THOUGHT, IF HE WAS LIKE THIS BECAUSE OF VIOLENCE, THEN MAYBE THE WAY TO FIX IT WAS...

THERE JUST HAS TO BE.

...NOT THAT.

THERE HAS TO BE A WAY TO MAKE HIM STOP.

SO I TOLD HIM,

EVEN IF HE'D DONE A LOT OF BAD THINGS,

IT WASN'T TOO LATE AND HE COULD STILL CHANGE AND BE GOOD INSTEAD.

EVERYONE CAN BE GOOD.

I COULD EVEN HELP HIM BE GOOD,

IF HE WANTED ME TO...

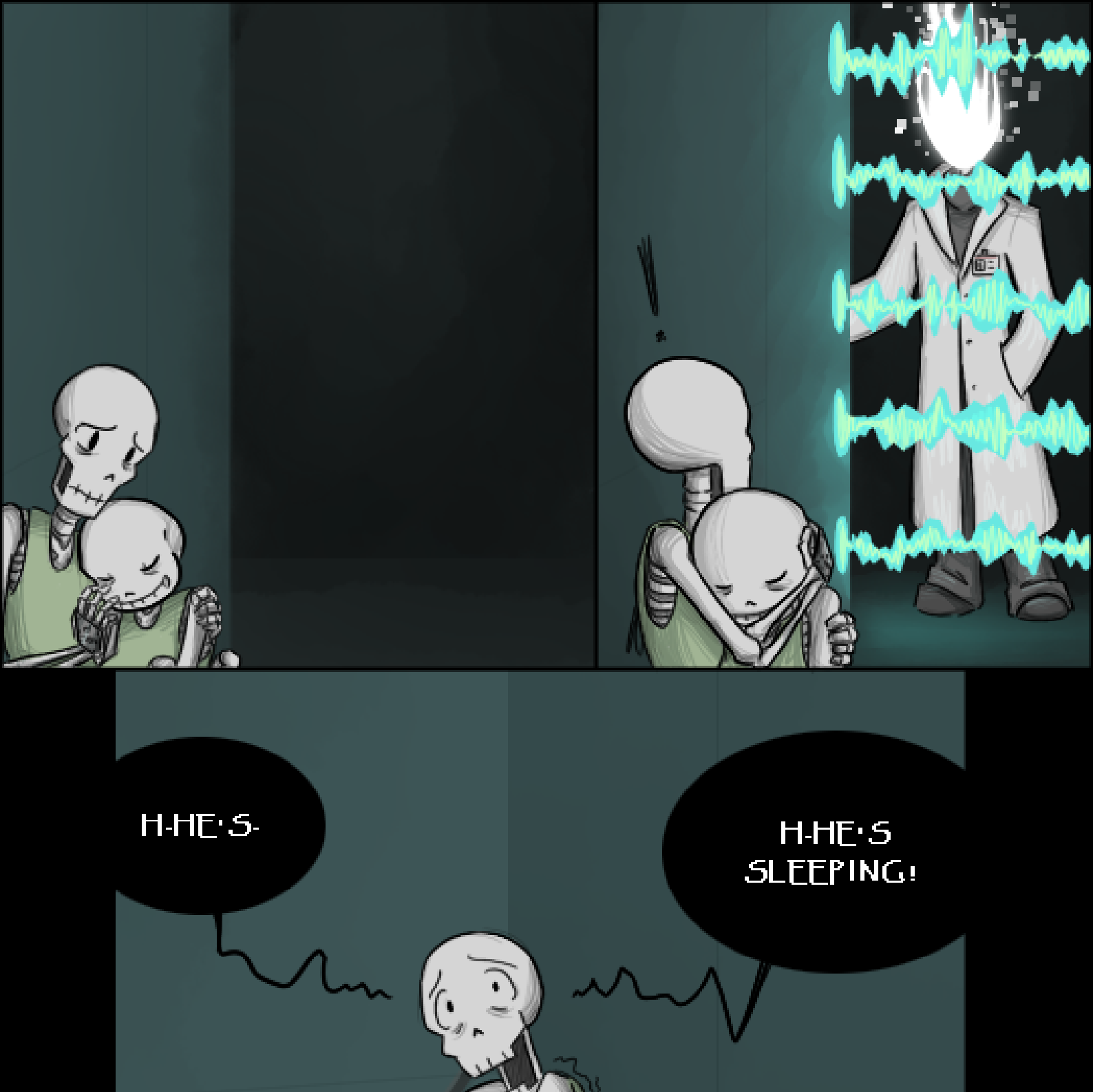
...AND HE SAID I WAS EVEN STUPIDER THAN HE THOUGHT.

...DO YOU THINK I'M STUPID?

nah, bro.

you're the brightest thing down here.





H-H-E-S-

H-H-E'S SLEEPING!

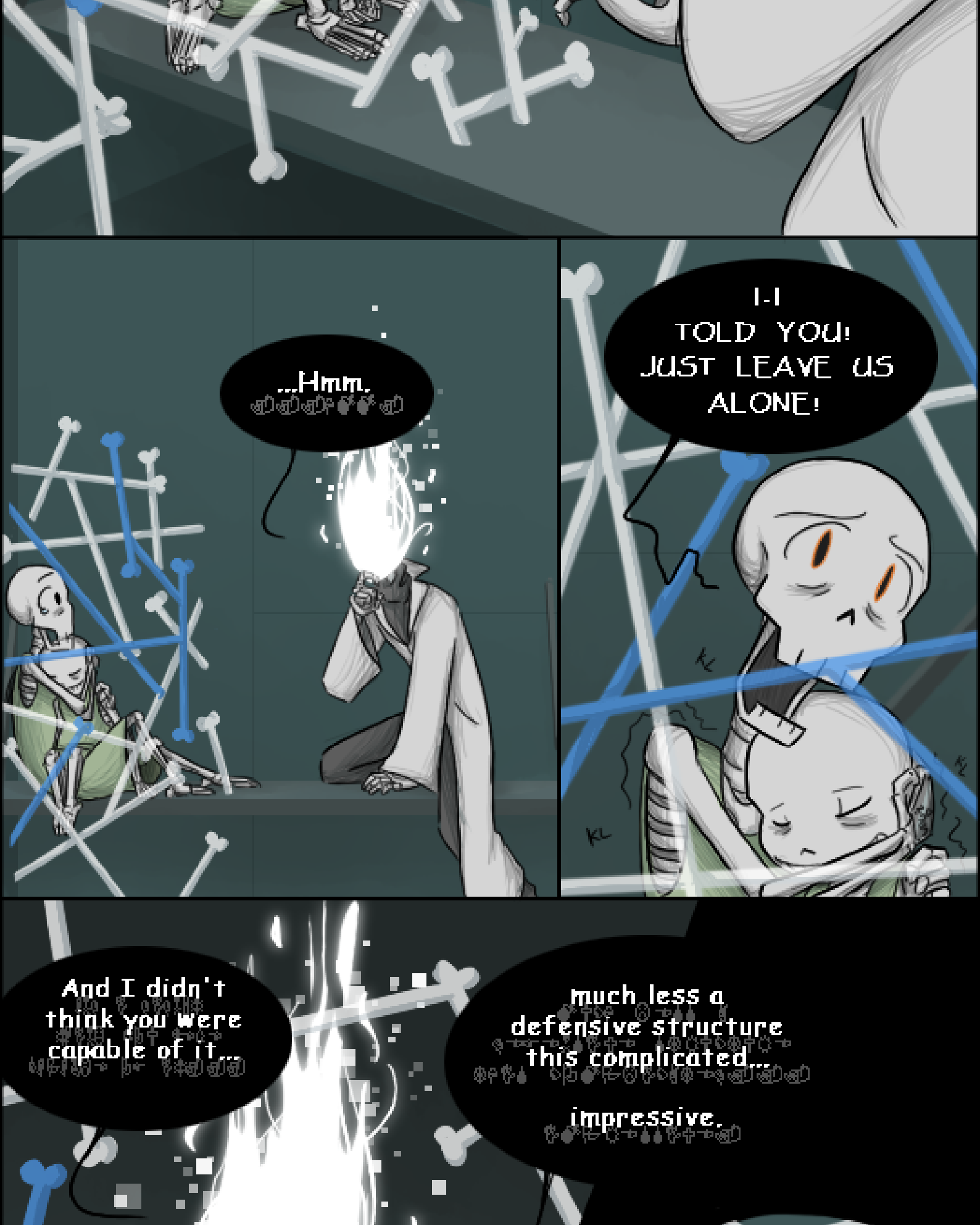
COME BACK LATER!

And what will you do if I don't?

DON'T...

DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!!!

DON'T!!



...Hmm...

I-I TOLD YOU! JUST LEAVE US ALONE!

And I didn't think you were capable of it...

much less a defensive structure this complicated... impressive.

Why haven't you done this before?

It's not like I haven't given you adequate cause.

YOU...

YOU TOLD ME TO BE CAREFUL...

...Of course.

you do more damage than I-S, even without training or practice.

That's very intriguing.

Y... YEAH. YOU...

YOU STAY AWAY FROM US! OK, OK...

OR I'LL... I'LL MAKE YOU! STAY AWAY!!!

I'll have to look into this later.

NO! NO, DON'T!

Now-

...how long has he been unconscious?

HE... HE WOULDN'T WAKE UP WHEN THE LIGHTS CAME ON.

Why didn't you tell me?

I-I WAS SCARED YOU'D GET MAD, OR YOU'D HURT HIM. I-I THOUGHT I COULD FIX IT BUT-

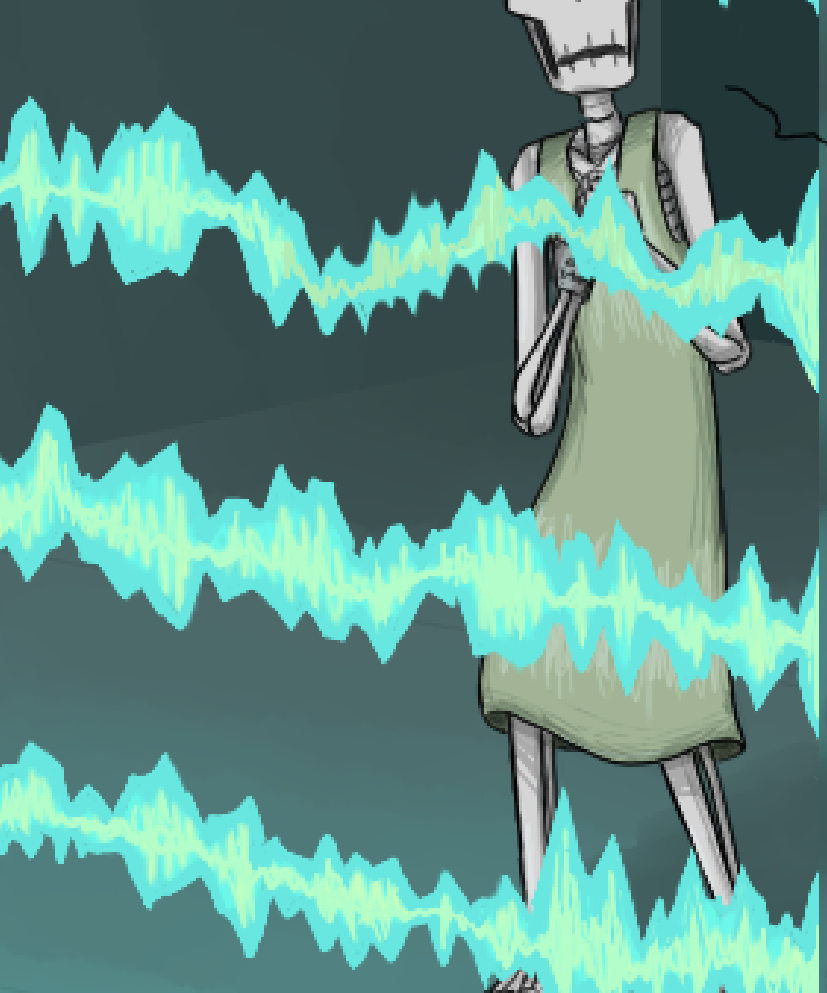
Hmm... no apparent sign of injury.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM? ARE YOU GOING TO FIX HIM? CAN I COME WITH YOU?

PLEASE, LET ME COME WITH YOU! HE'LL BE SCARED WHEN HE WAKES UP, PLEASE, I CAN HELP YOU.

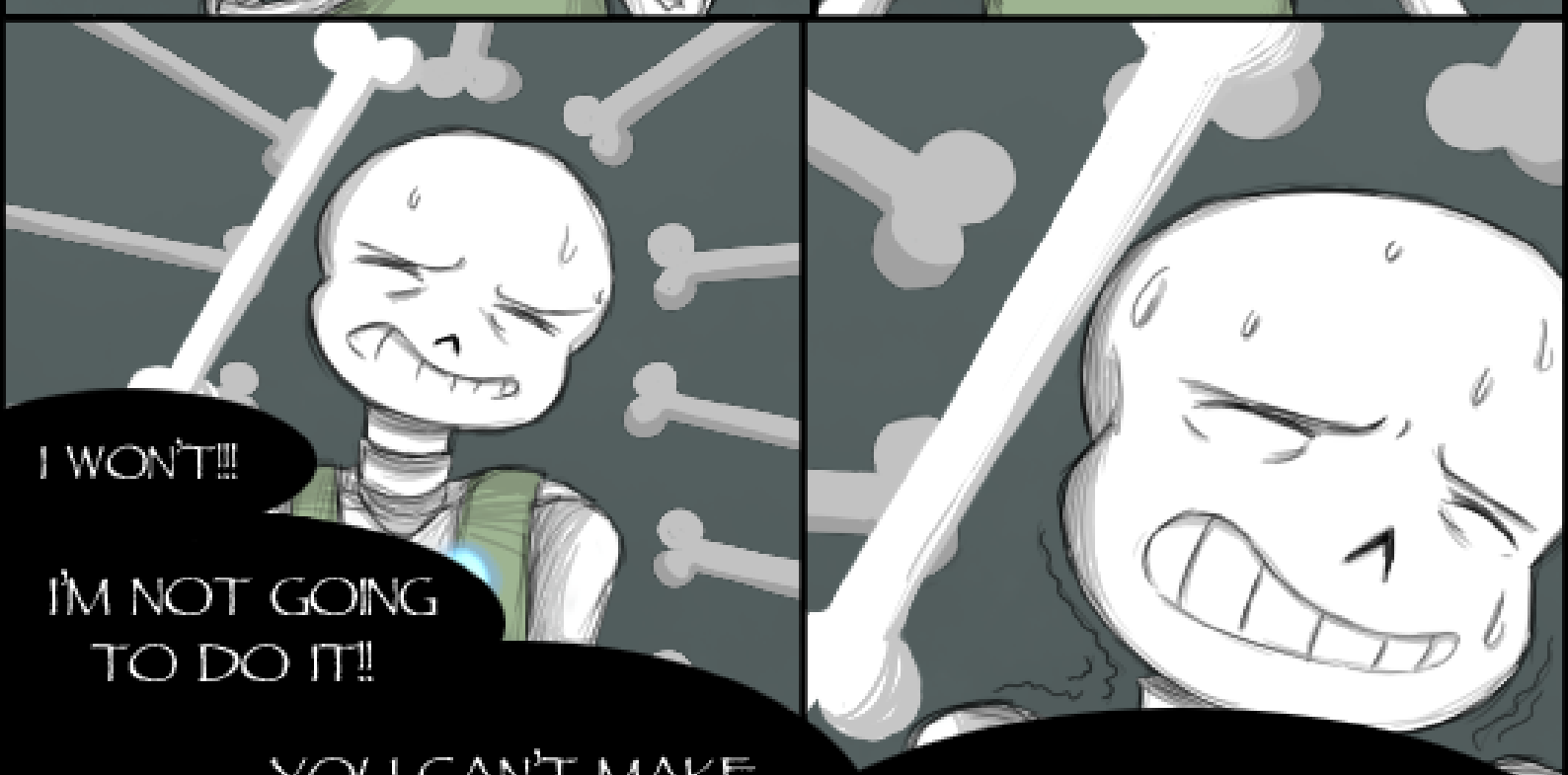
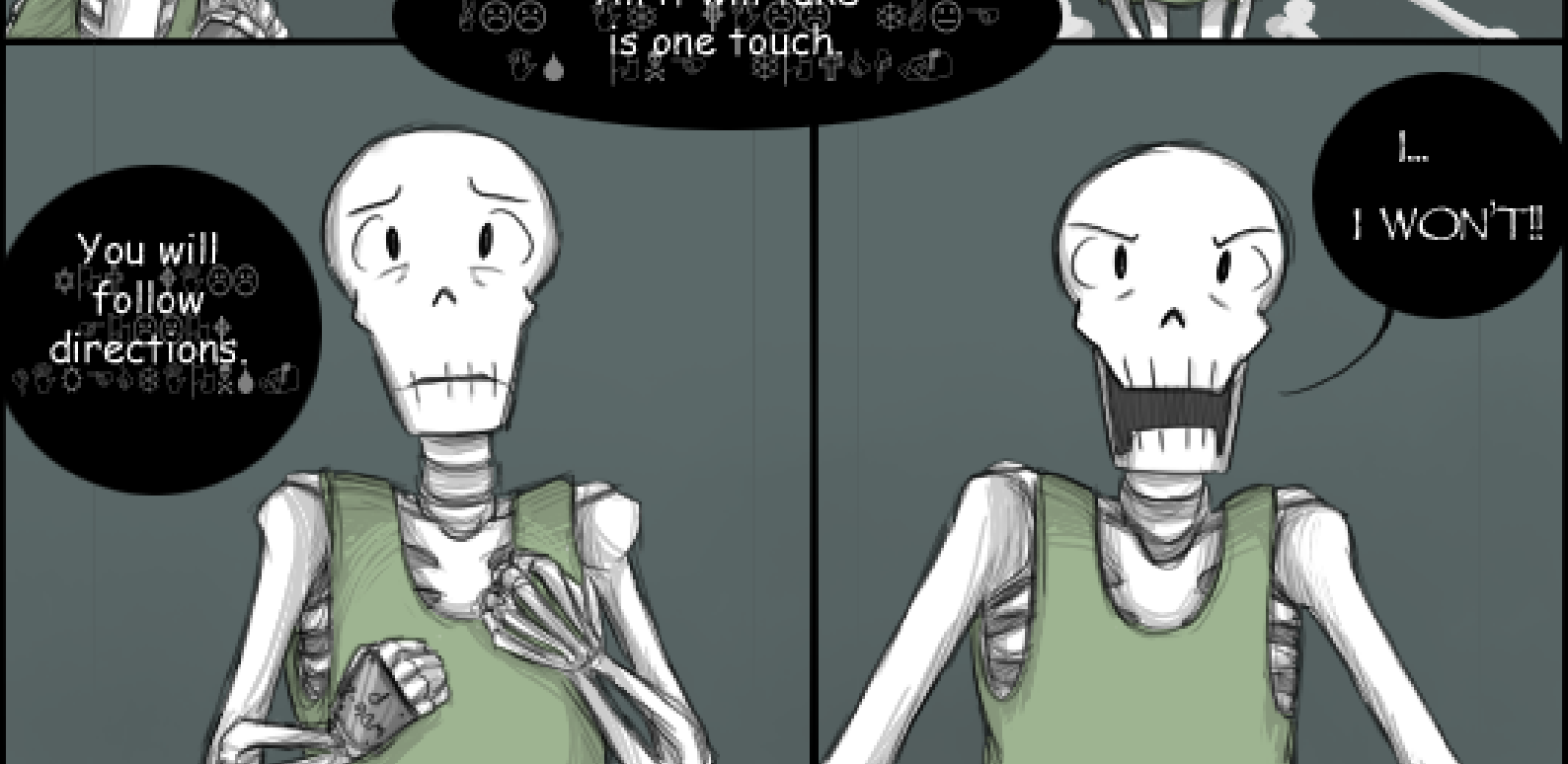
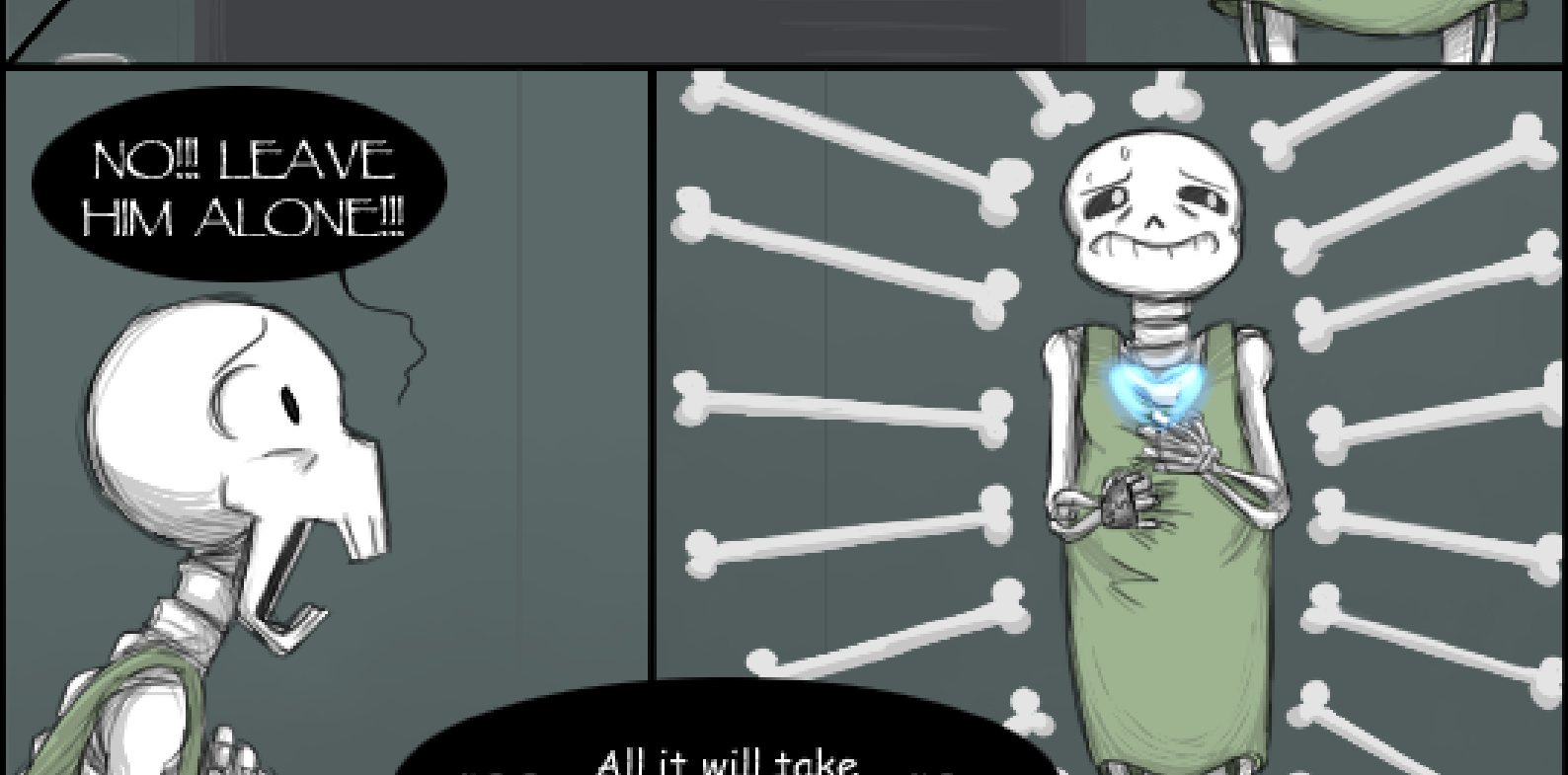
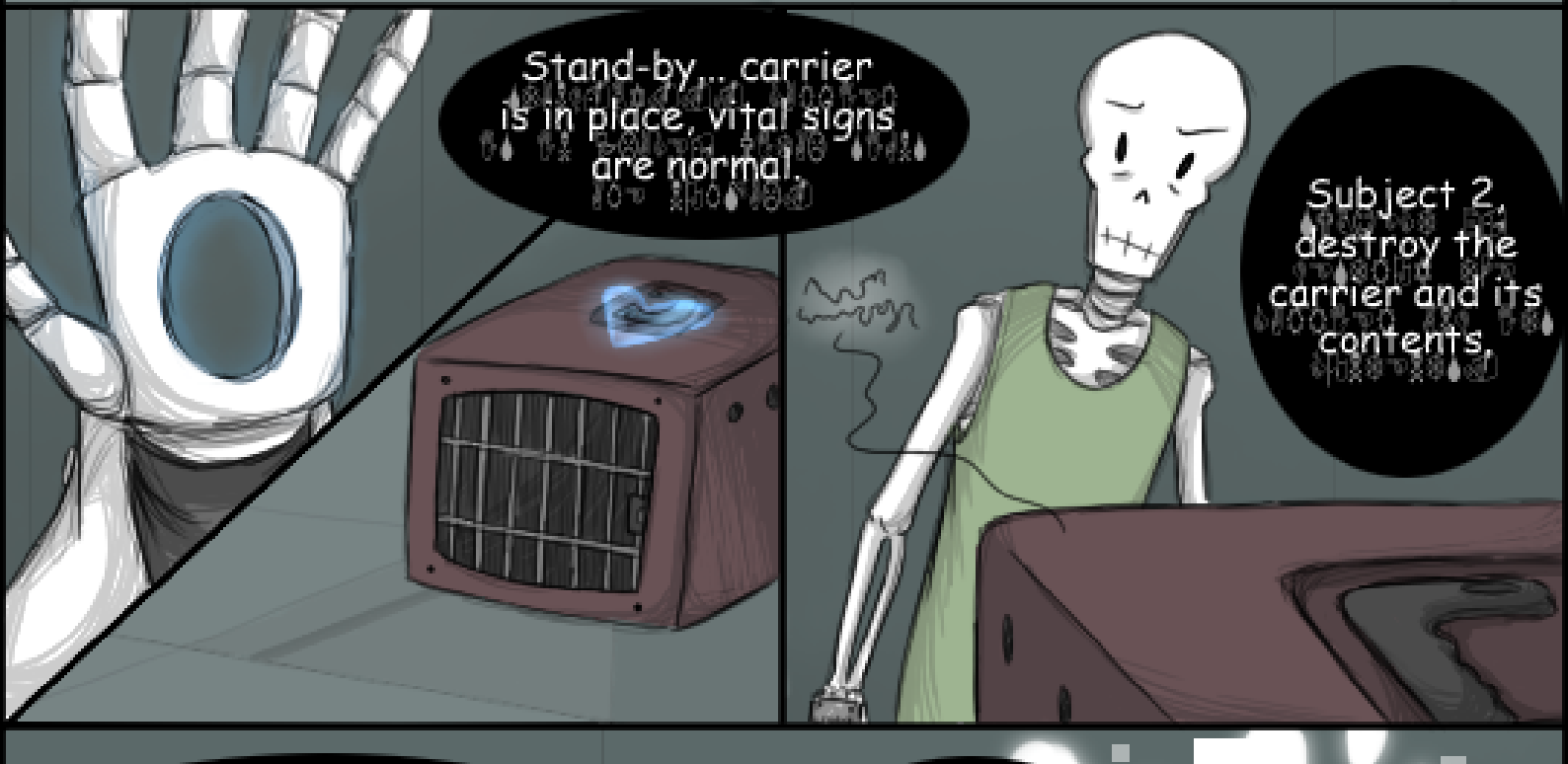
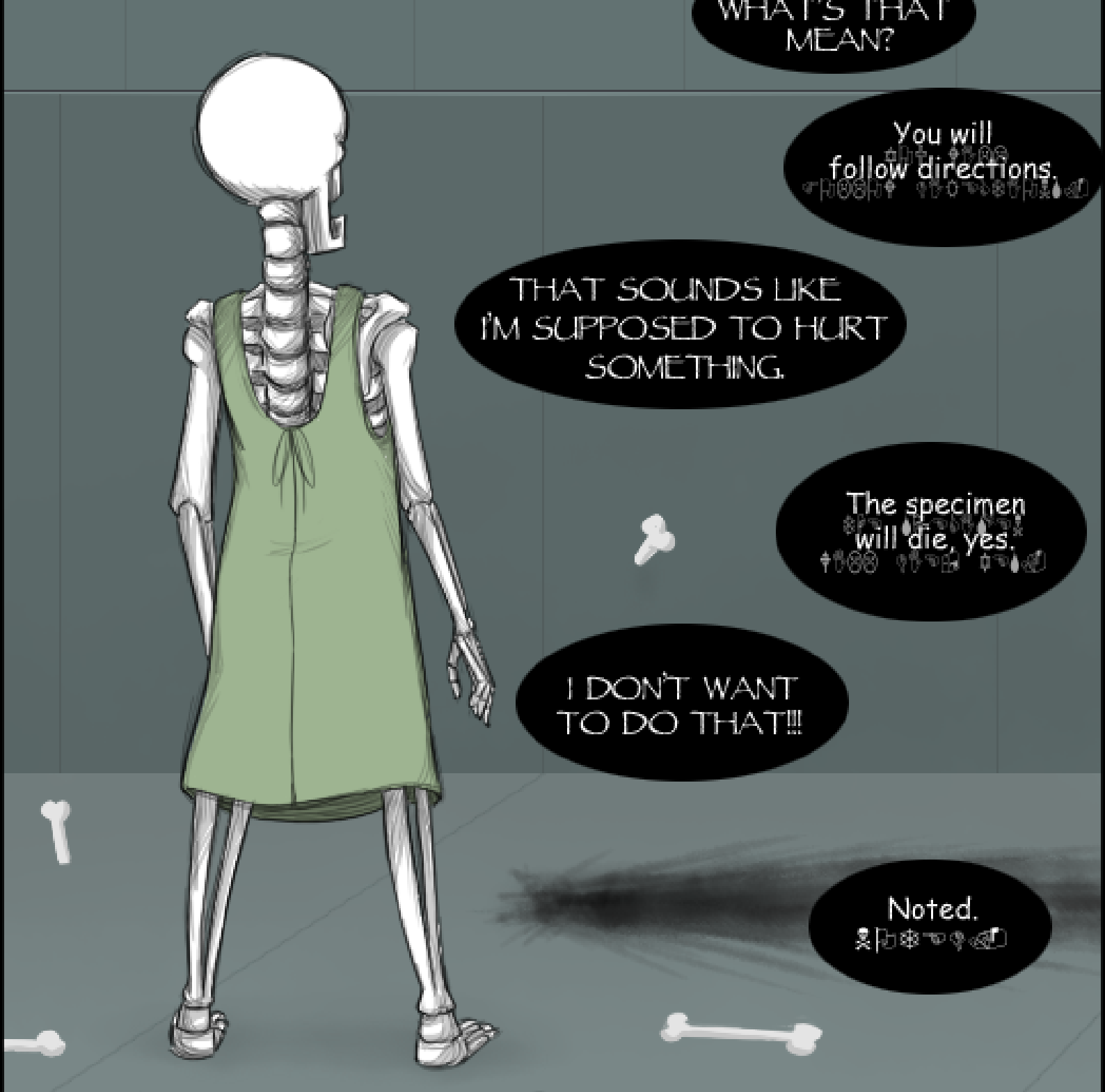
PLEASE! I CAN HELP! DON'T GO!

DON'T...

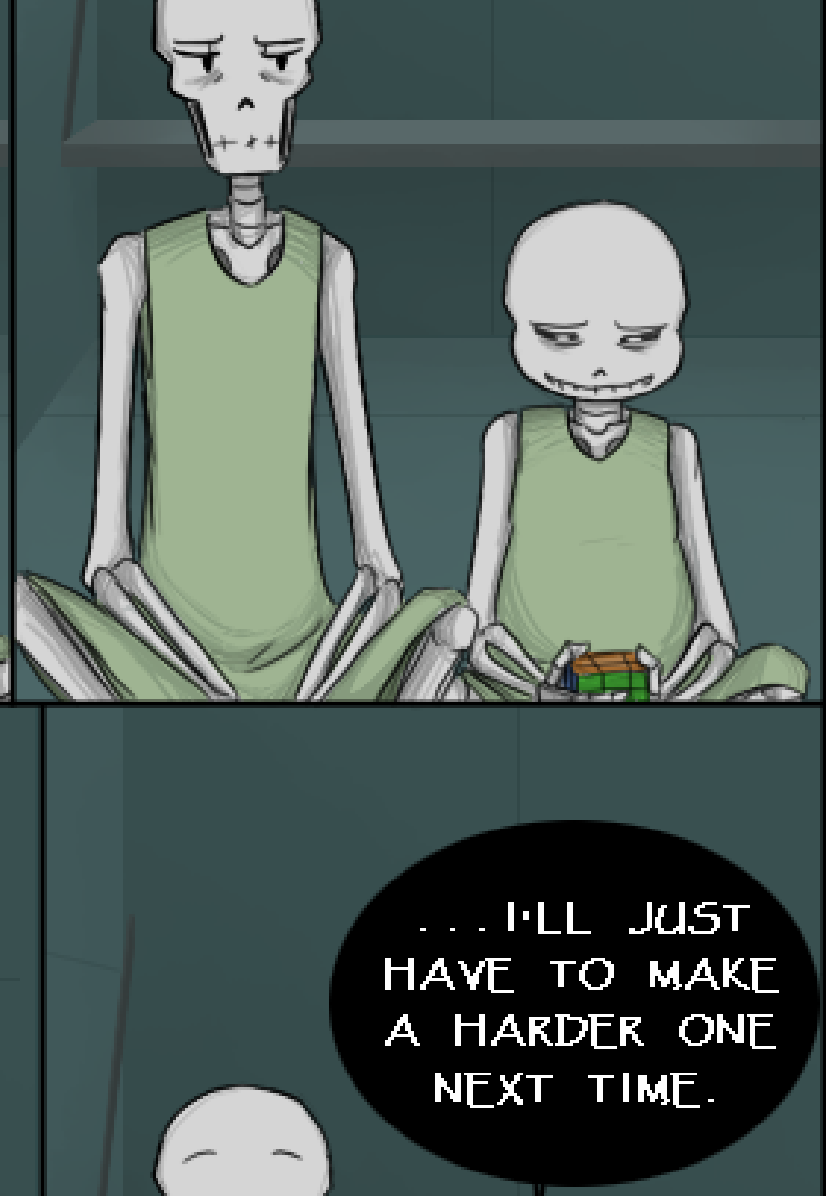
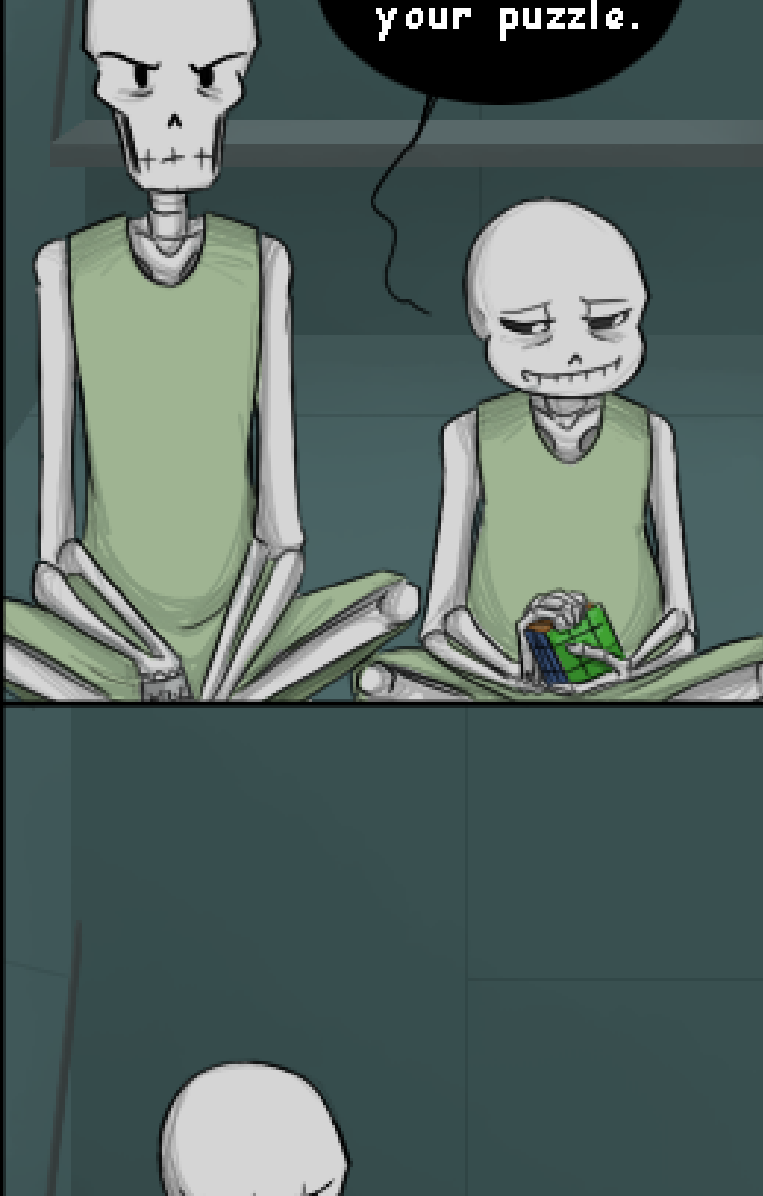
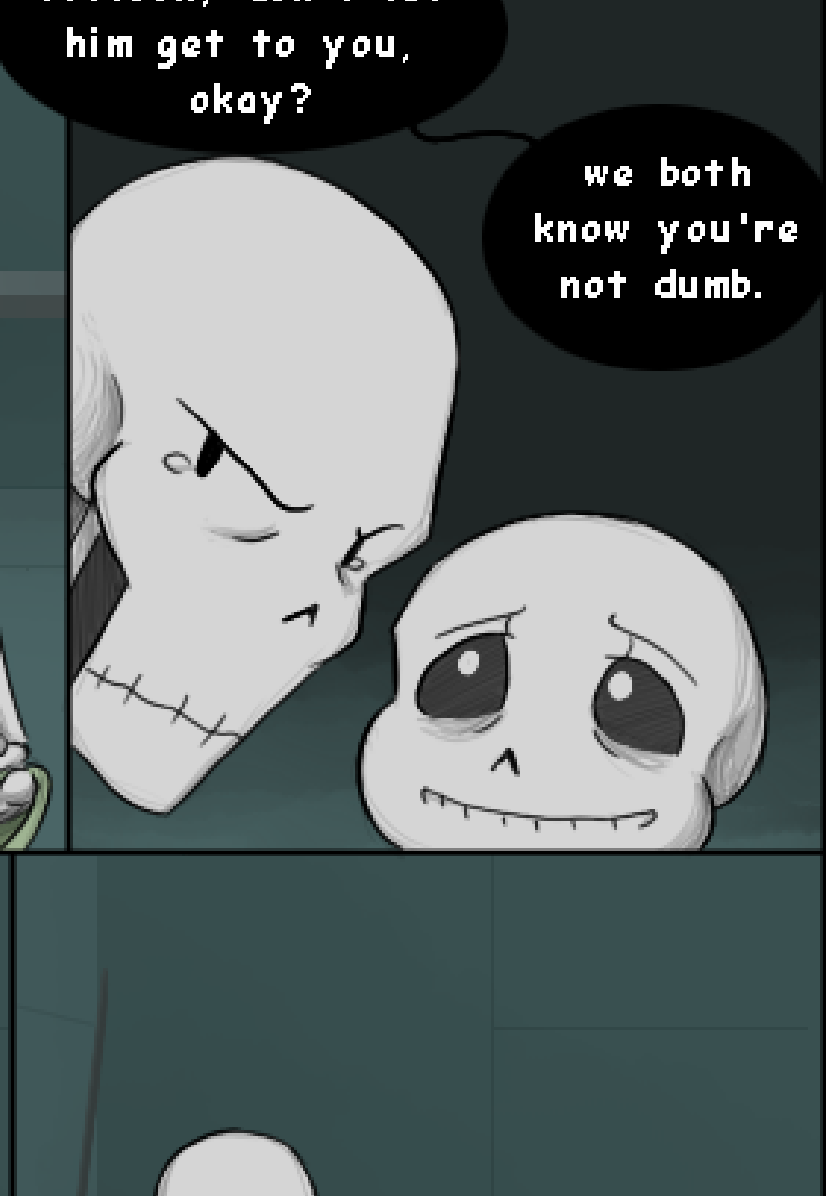
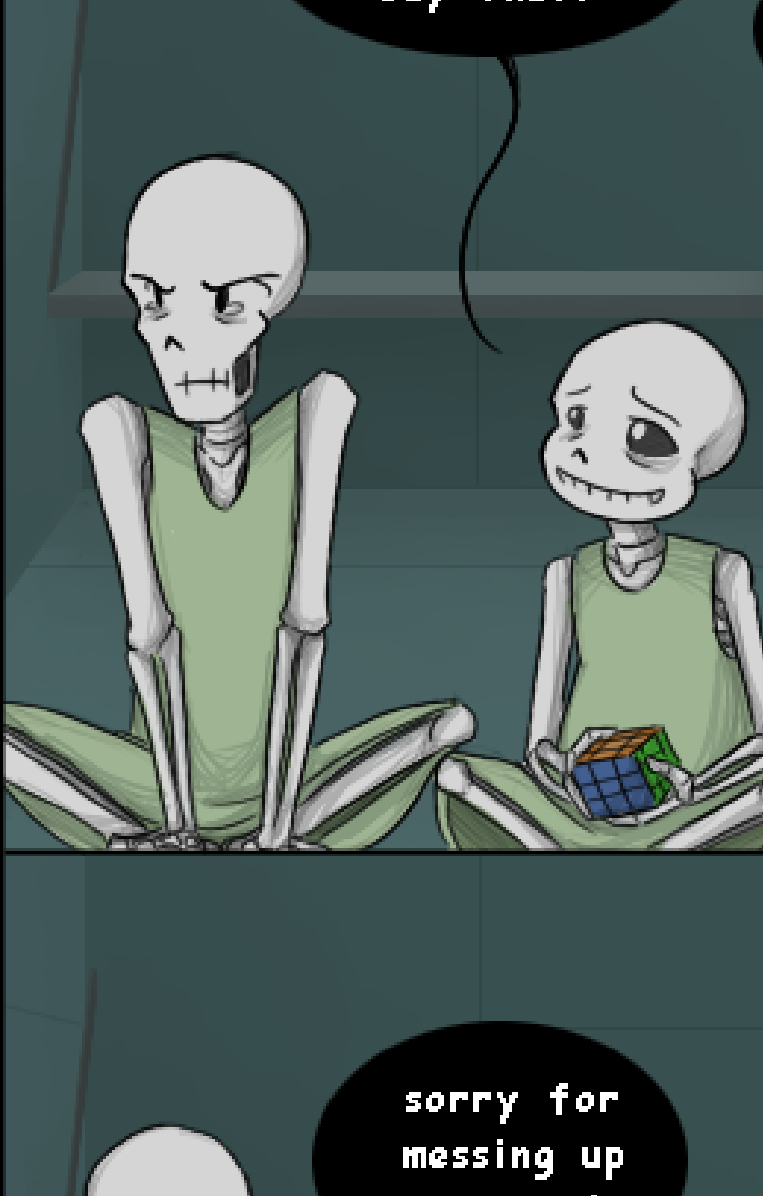
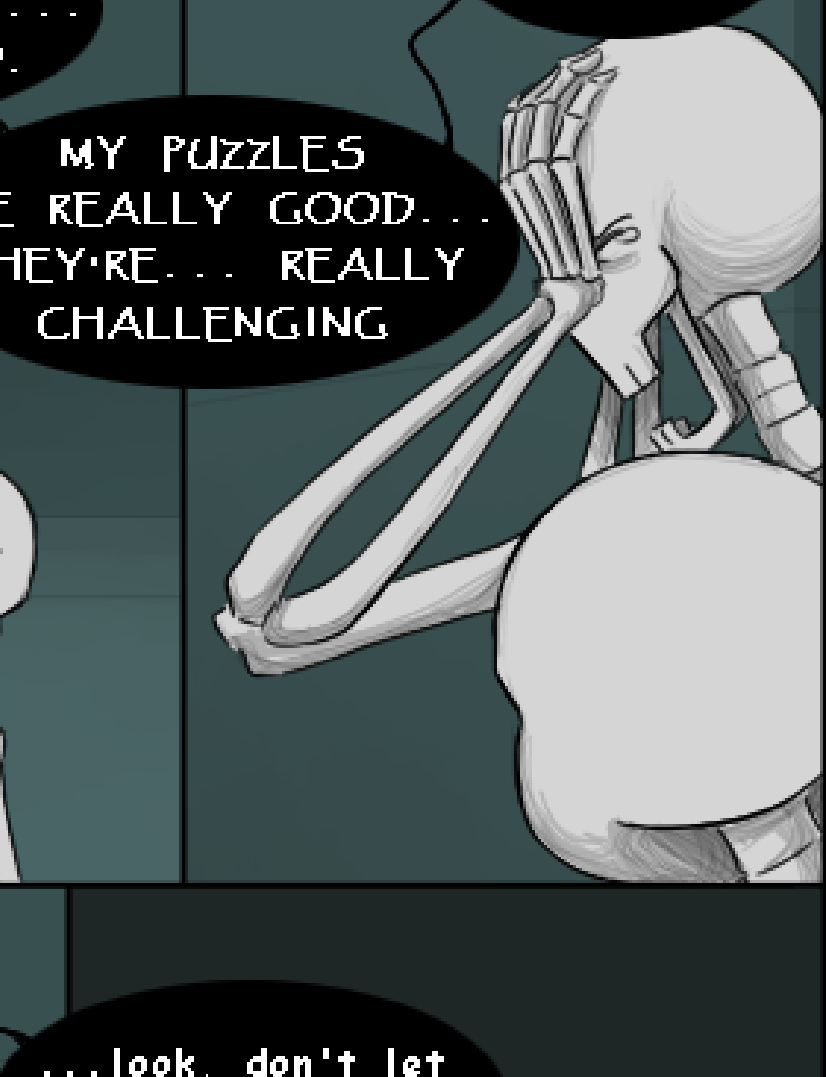
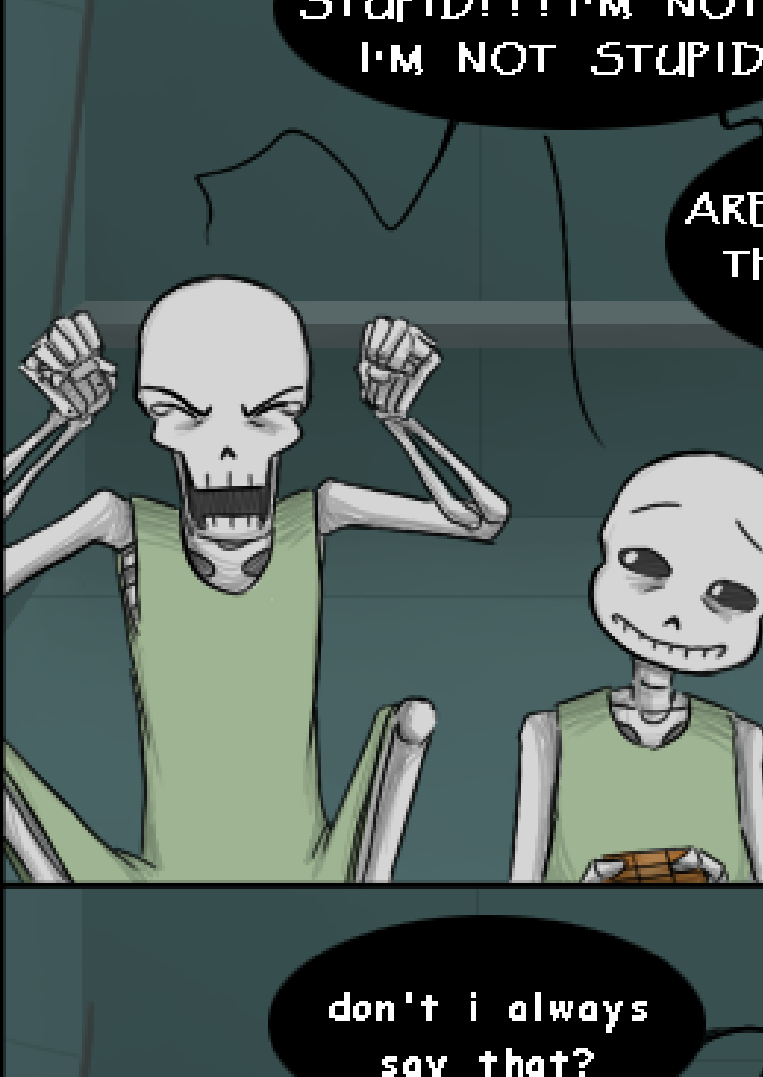
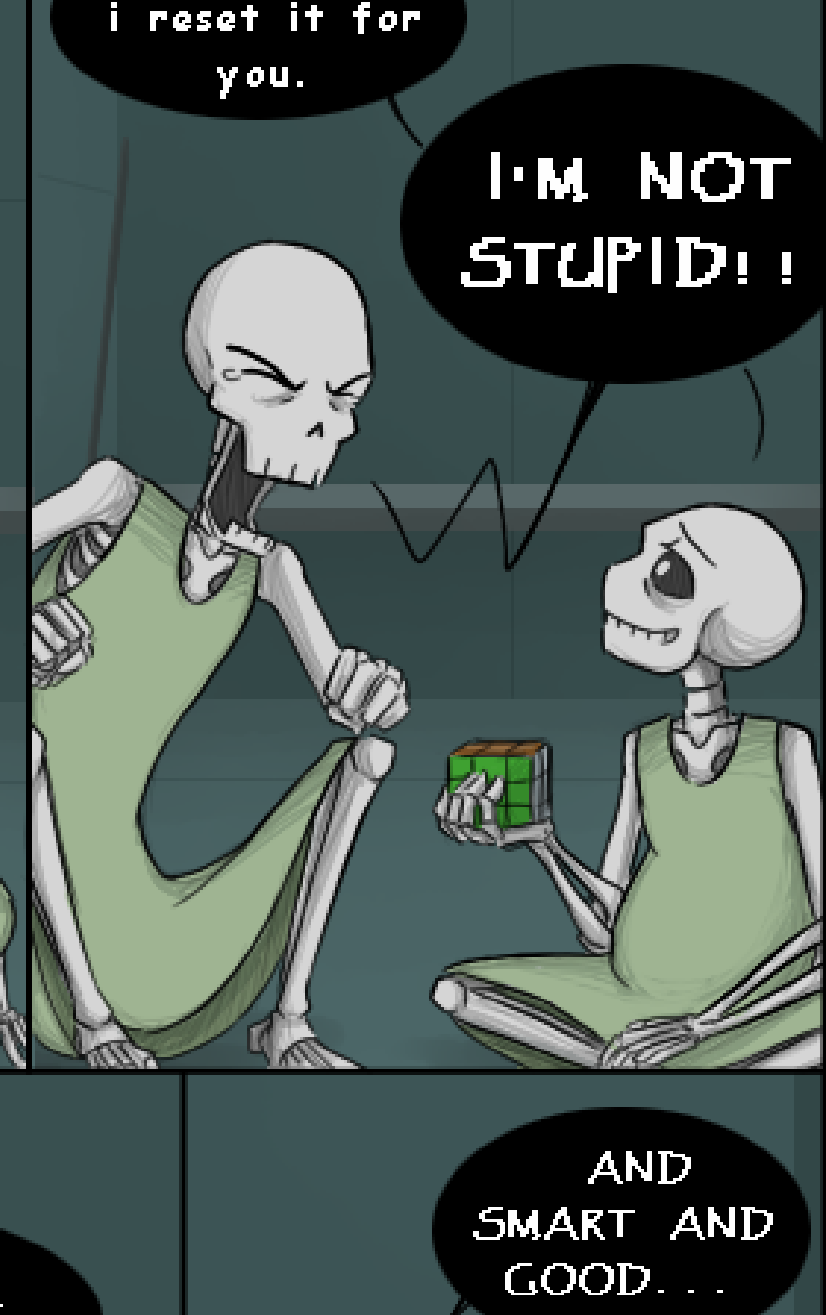
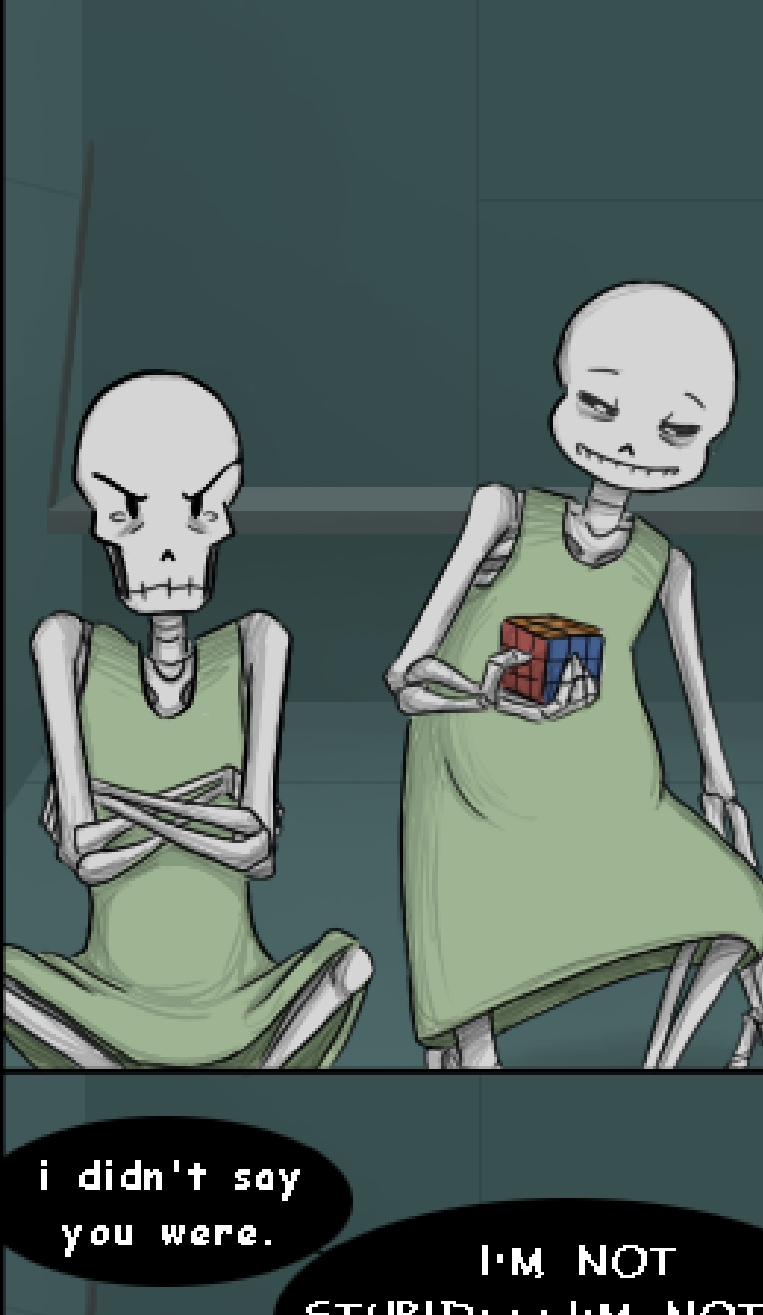
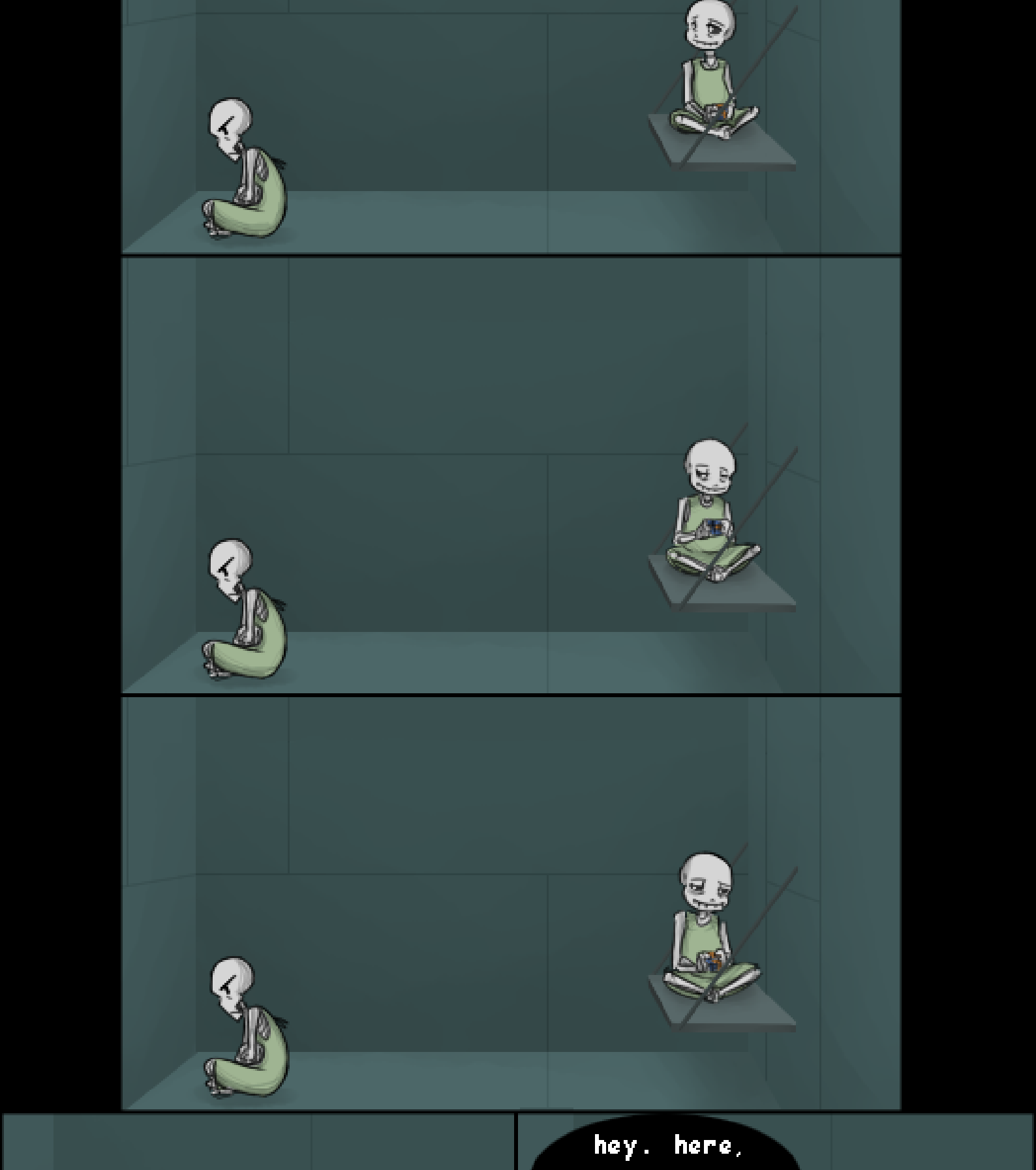
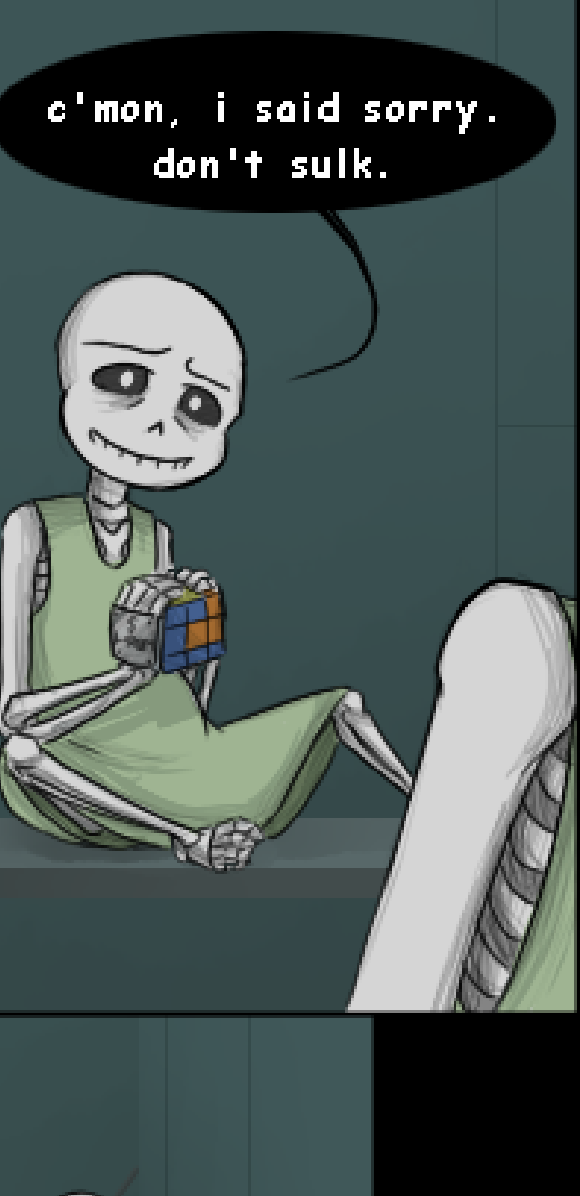
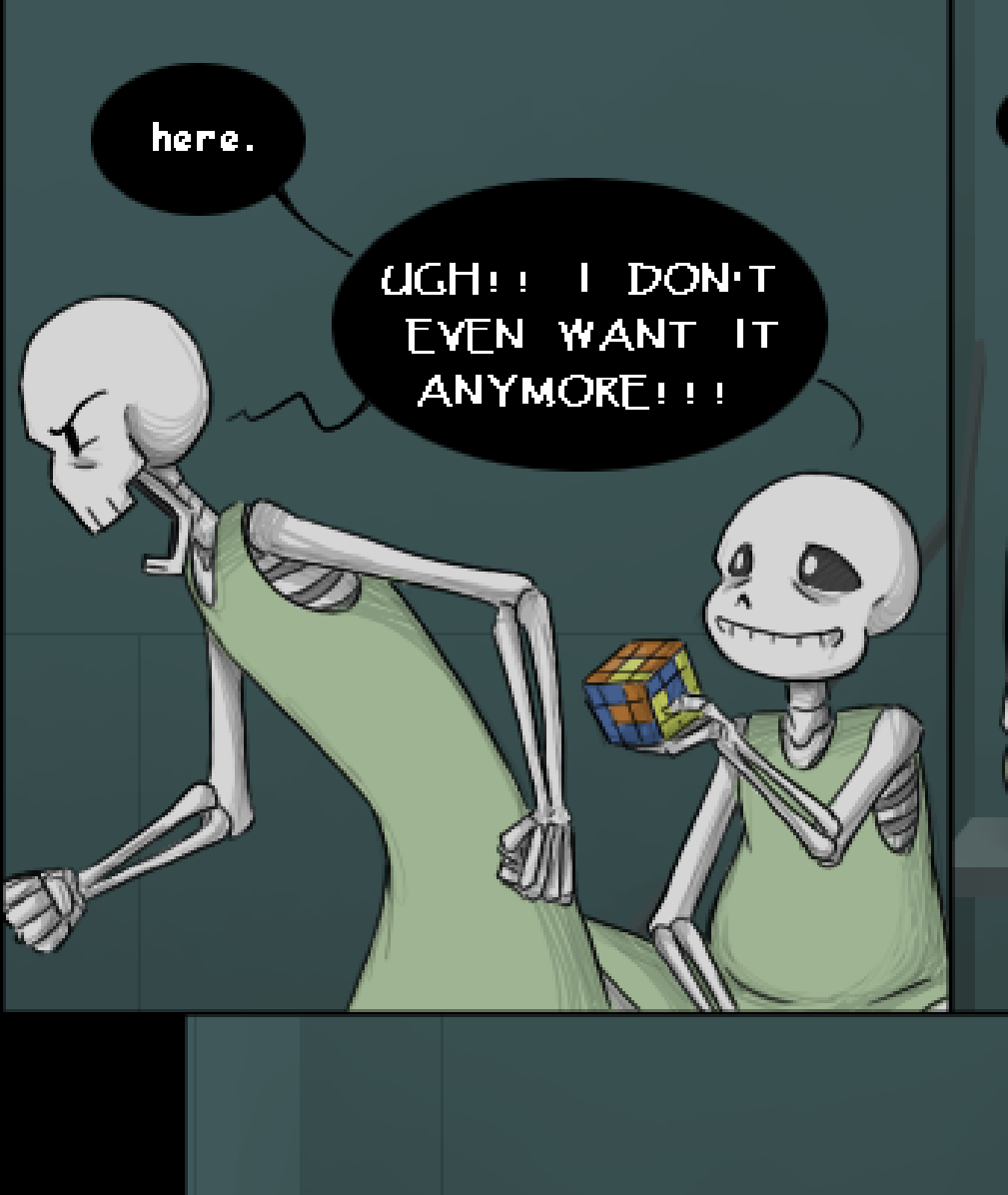
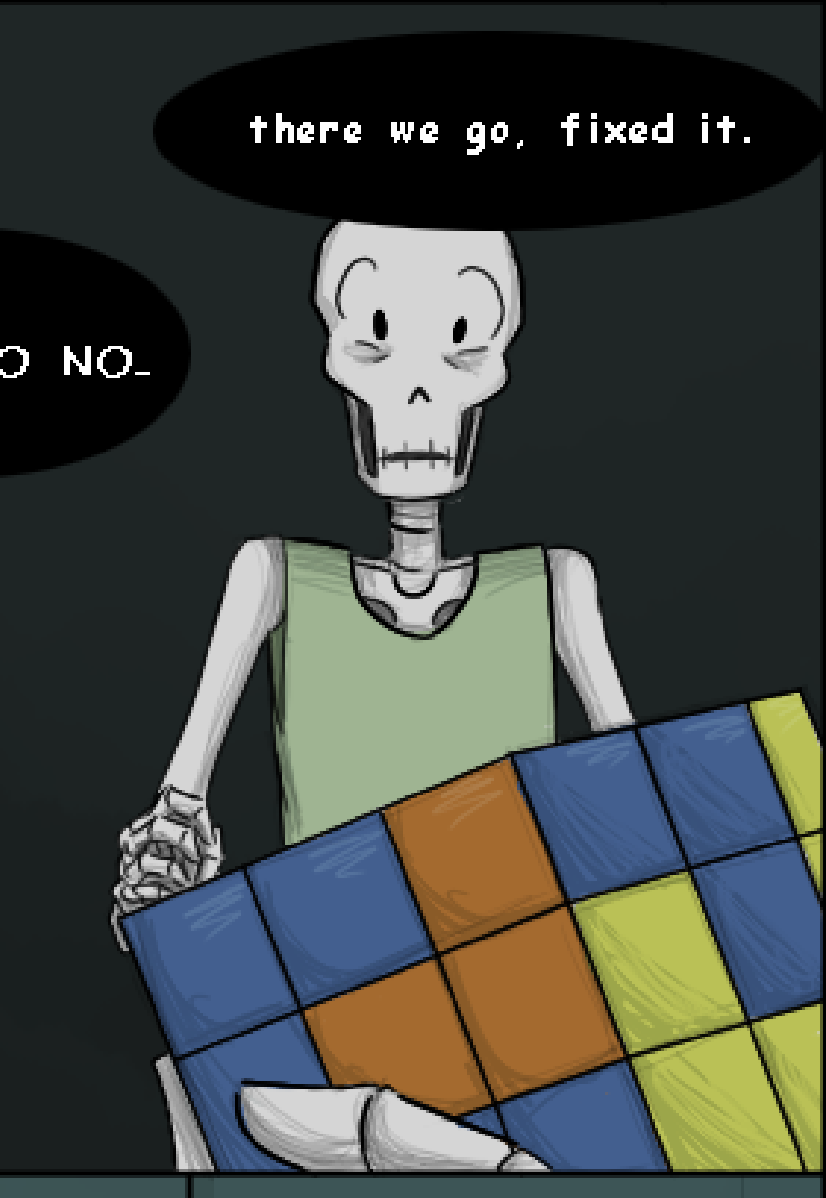
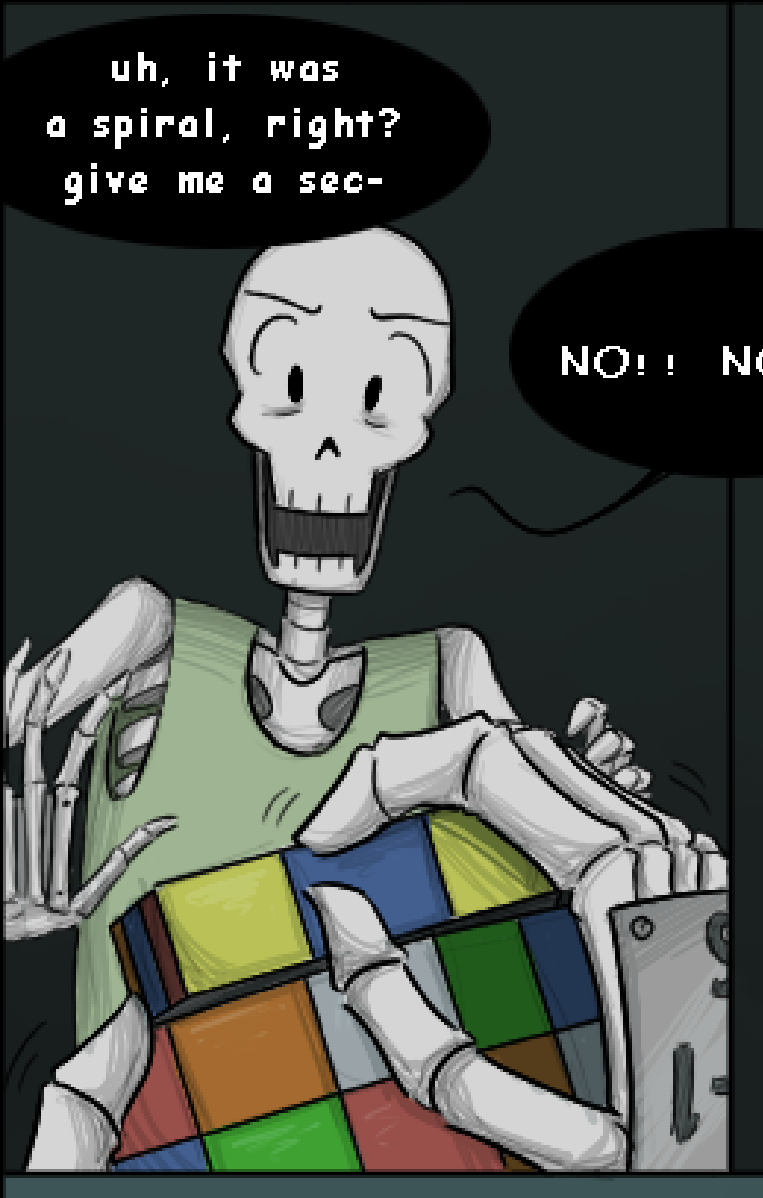
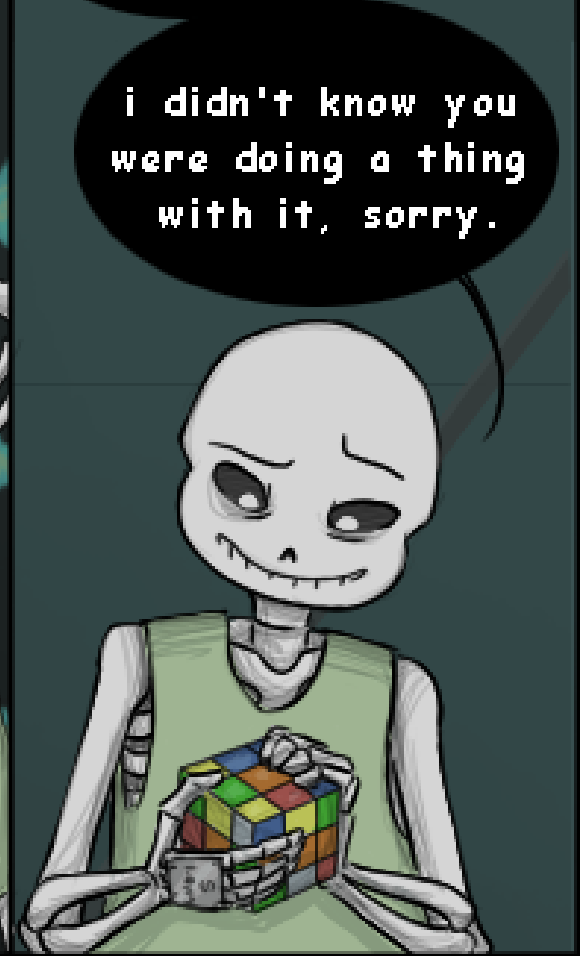
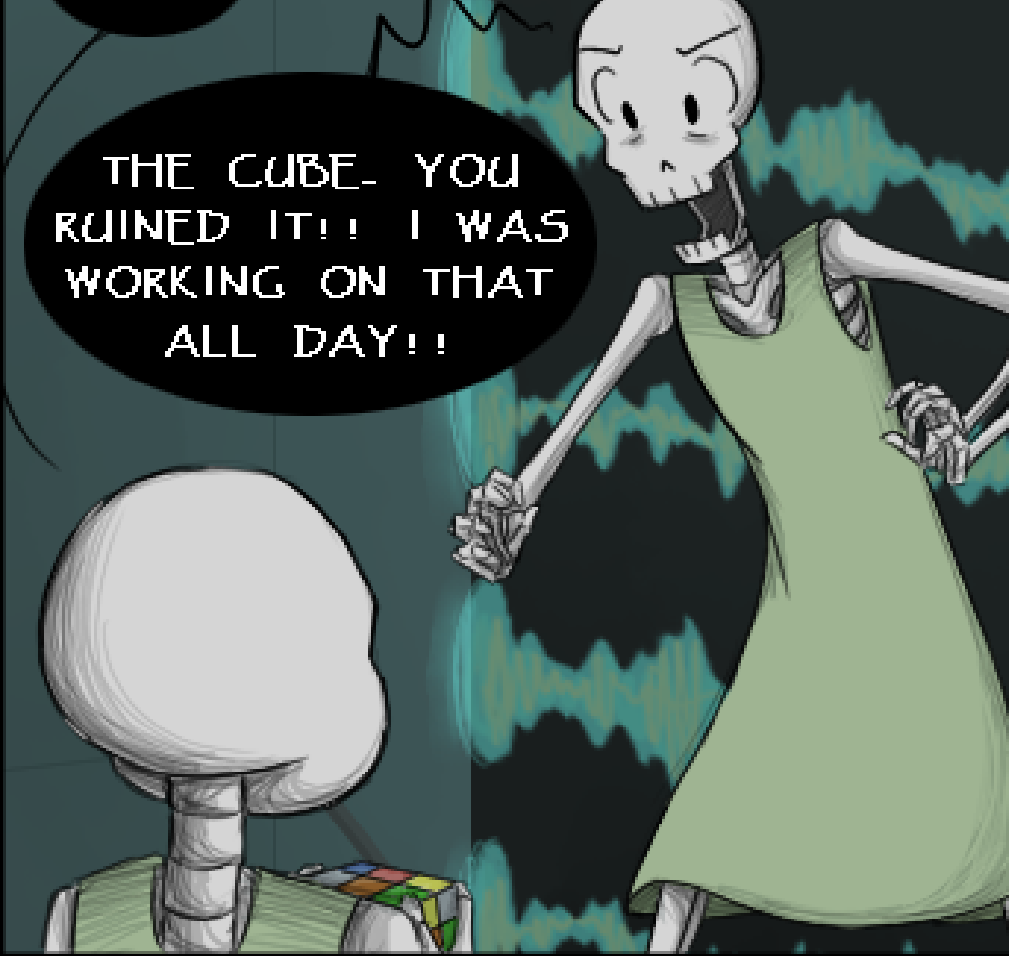
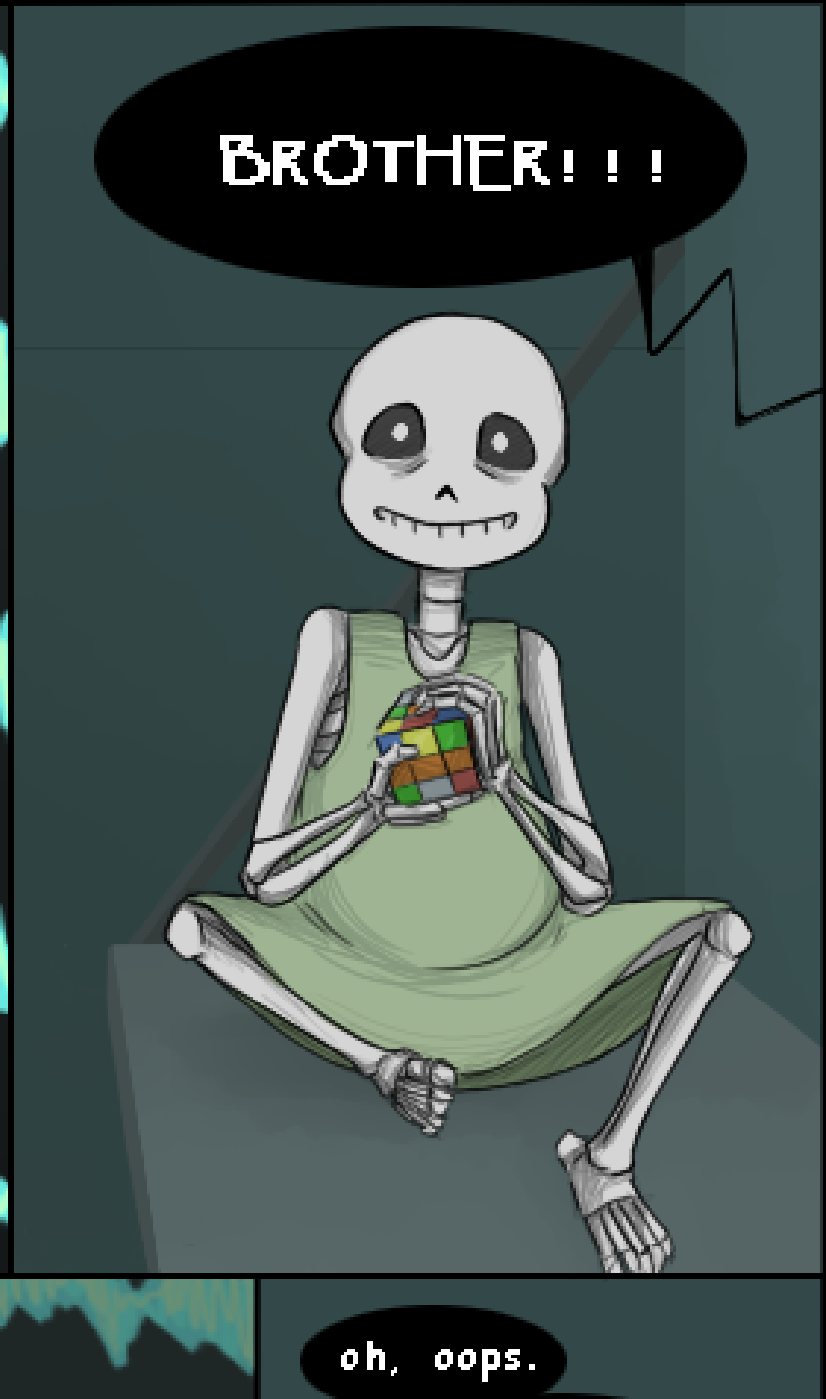


DON'T LEAVE ME HERE ALONE...











OH, HOW DID TRAINING GO?

eh. same as always.

you know me, i'm the best at being disappointing.

OH DON'T WORRY, BROTHER, YOU'LL GET BETTER AT IT SOMEDAY!

DID HE GIVE YOU ONE OF THE LASER THINGIES?

oh...

yeah, but it didn't do much.

i guess it was kinda funny to see the look on his face though, he really thought he was on to something.

looks like i can fail my way out of anything.

DOES IT LOOK LIKE MINE? CAN I SEE IT? I WANT TO SEE!!

eh... i'm not real good at it...

CMON, I WANT TO SEE! I WANT TO SEE!!! SHOW ME SHOW ME SHOW ME SHOW ME

okay, okay...

yup, that's it.

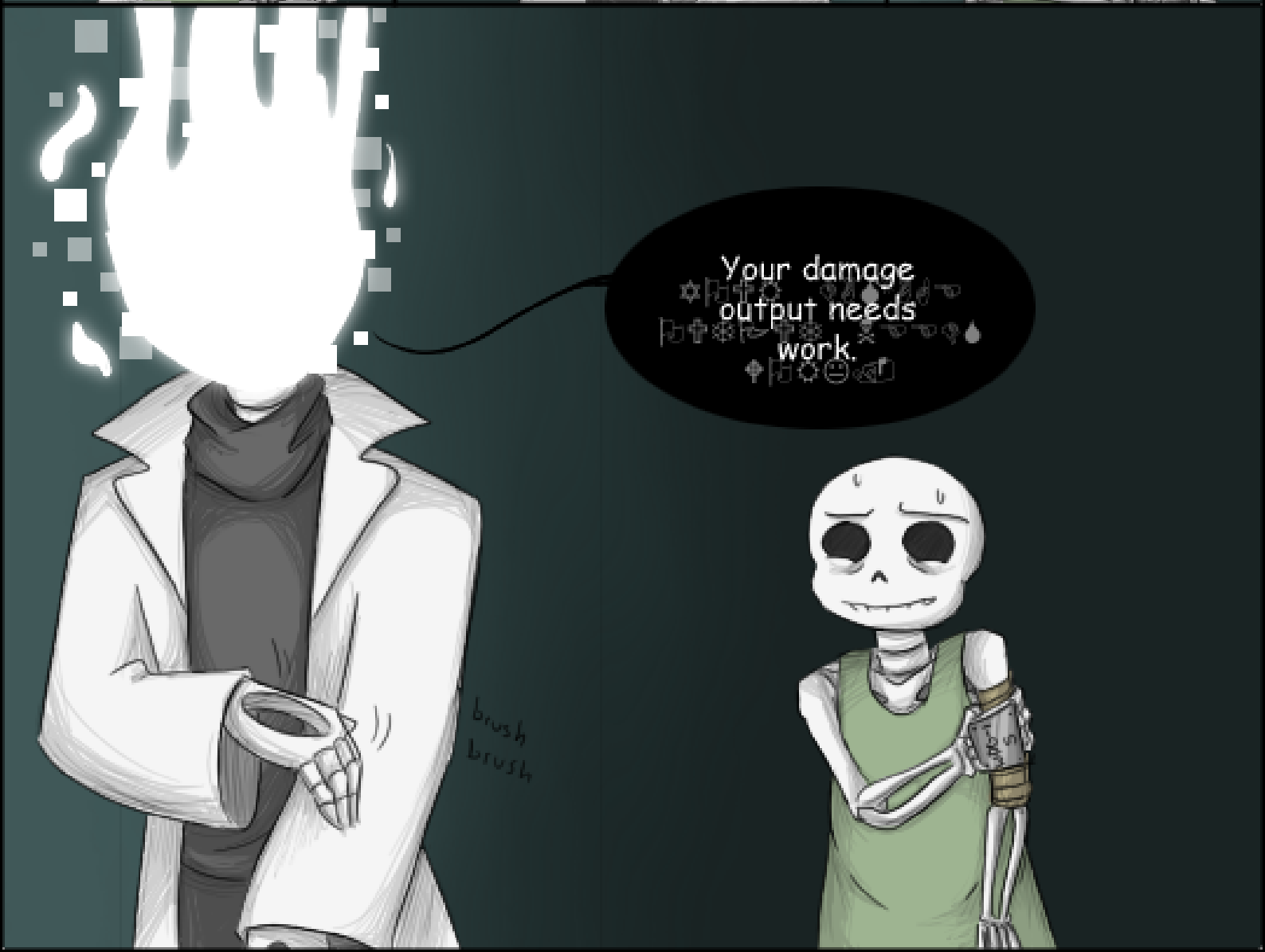
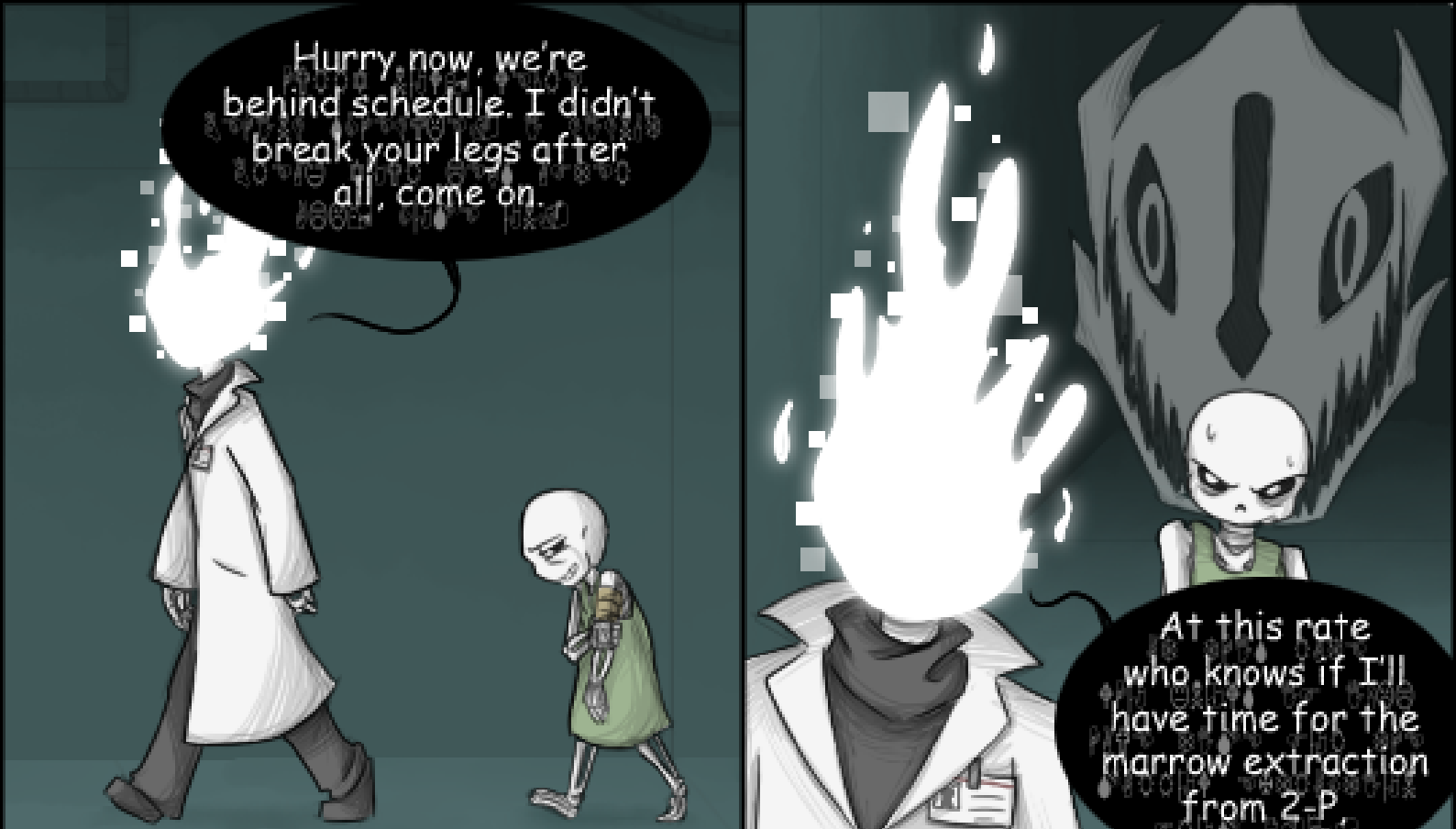
doesn't quite match up to yours, huh?

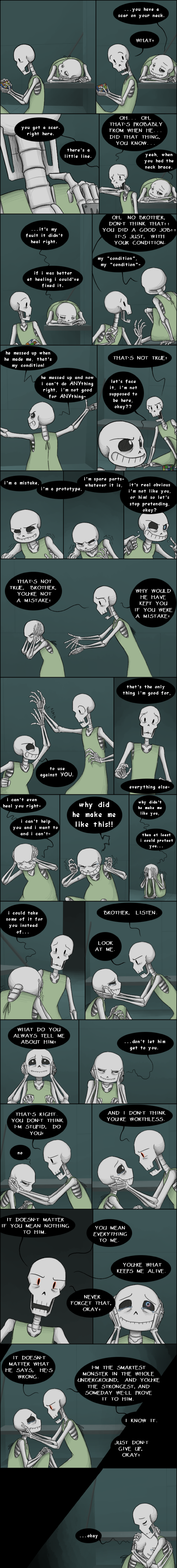
ZAP!

oh jeez-

are you okay?! i didn't tell it to-

I LOVE IT!!









Come with me.

I know the two of you have been experimenting with blue magic.

BLUE...

Yes, that is the color associated with the ability. It makes sense that you both would be able to use it, you inherited.

...ngh.

inherited it from me.

Since you're beginning to show aptitude for it,

a lesson is in order.

You, here.

Blue magic allows a SOUL to be affected by gravity, the source of the heavy feeling you no doubt experience every time I pick either of you up.

Now, those truly adept at blue magic can take hold of the SOUL and move it as they please.

With my expertise, I barely have to exert any effort at all to lift and move either of you.

Now to the point.

Should either of you ever even think of using blue magic on me,

for any reason.

there will be consequences.

no- stop!!!

As you can see,

at this level.

I do not need to raise traps on the walls to inflict significant damage.

Just the strikes themselves are enough.

stop! stop, don't!! leave him alone!! you're going to kill him!!!

Oh please, give me some credit.

I know exactly how much punishment he can take.

and I know exactly how hard to make each strike, right down to the number.

He is in no danger of death.

This is merely a demonstration.

stop!!! stop, stop stop, please!! please, stop!!

Have I made myself clear?

yes!! yes, just stop!! please stop!! please!!!

Did you hear that, 2-P?

I cannot make an example of him so easily, but you have the endurance to take his place should he misbehave. If 1-S ever even considers using blue magic against me,

I will hold you responsible.

And this is just a demonstration.

I assure you, this could be much worse.

Do you understand?

Uh...

uh hum...

And you, 1-S?

y...yes,

i understand,

just let him go, please...

If the point has been made,

then we are done for now.

Here.

Heal him if you like.

I'll fix whatever you can't.

For your sake, I hope both of you keep this in mind.

...what about him?

Ahm?

what if he used blue magic on you?

We both know that's not going to happen.

Are you done?

hk...
all i... it's all
i could do...

Let's see...

You healed more than
I expected. Good. That
will make things
easier.

I'll take him from
here. Come on.

NNHH

NNH,
BROTHER?

BROTHER...

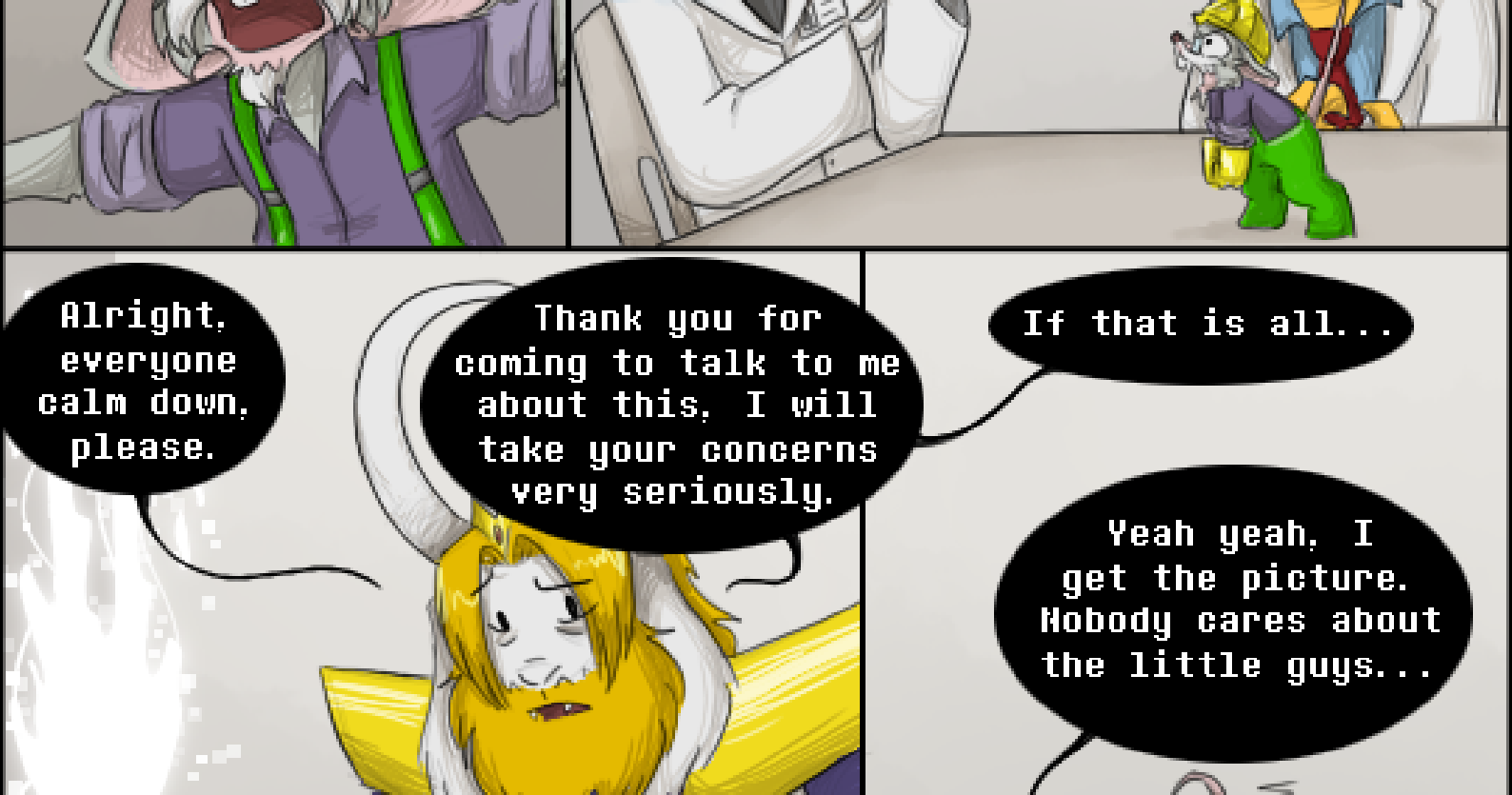
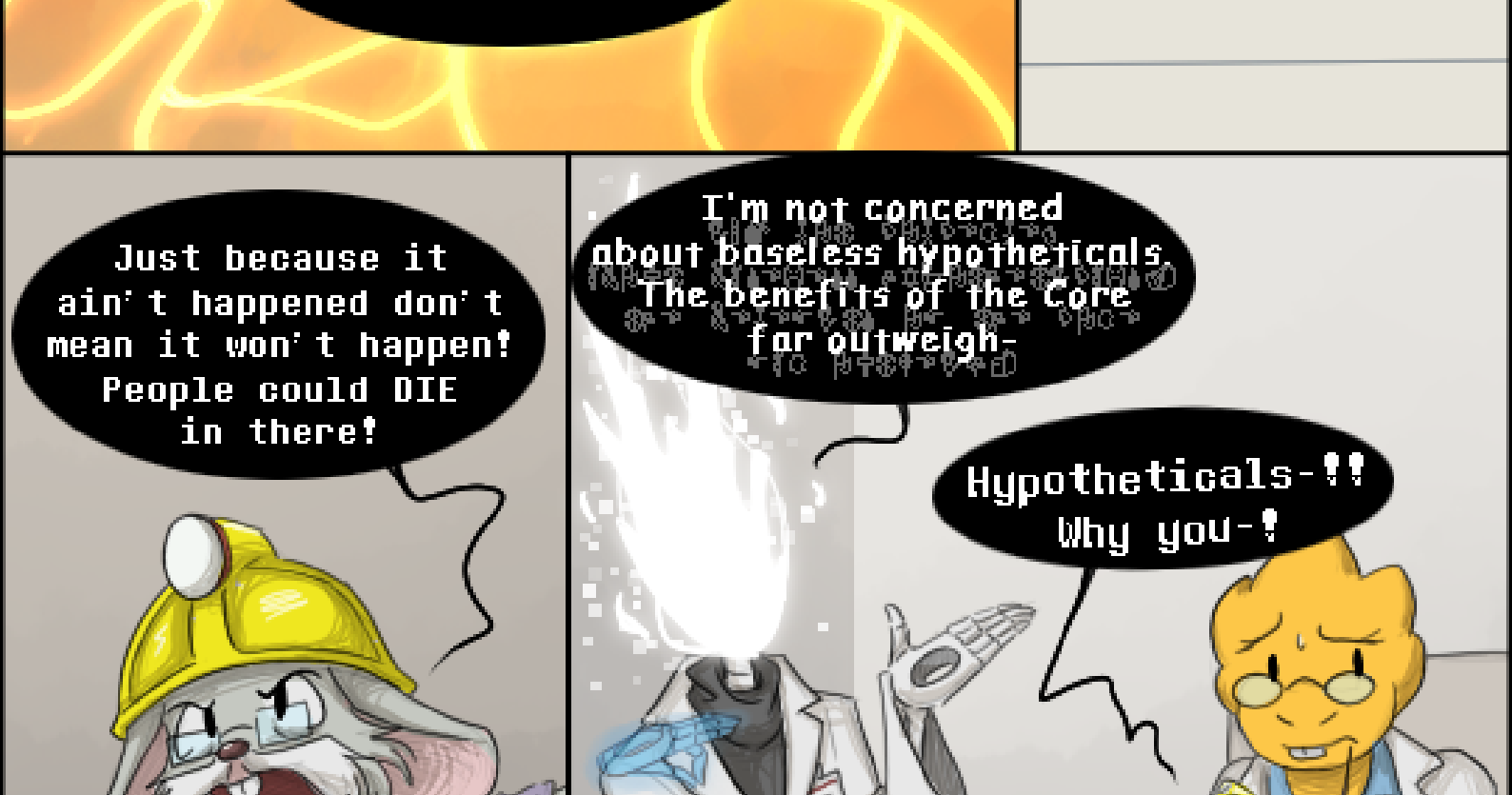
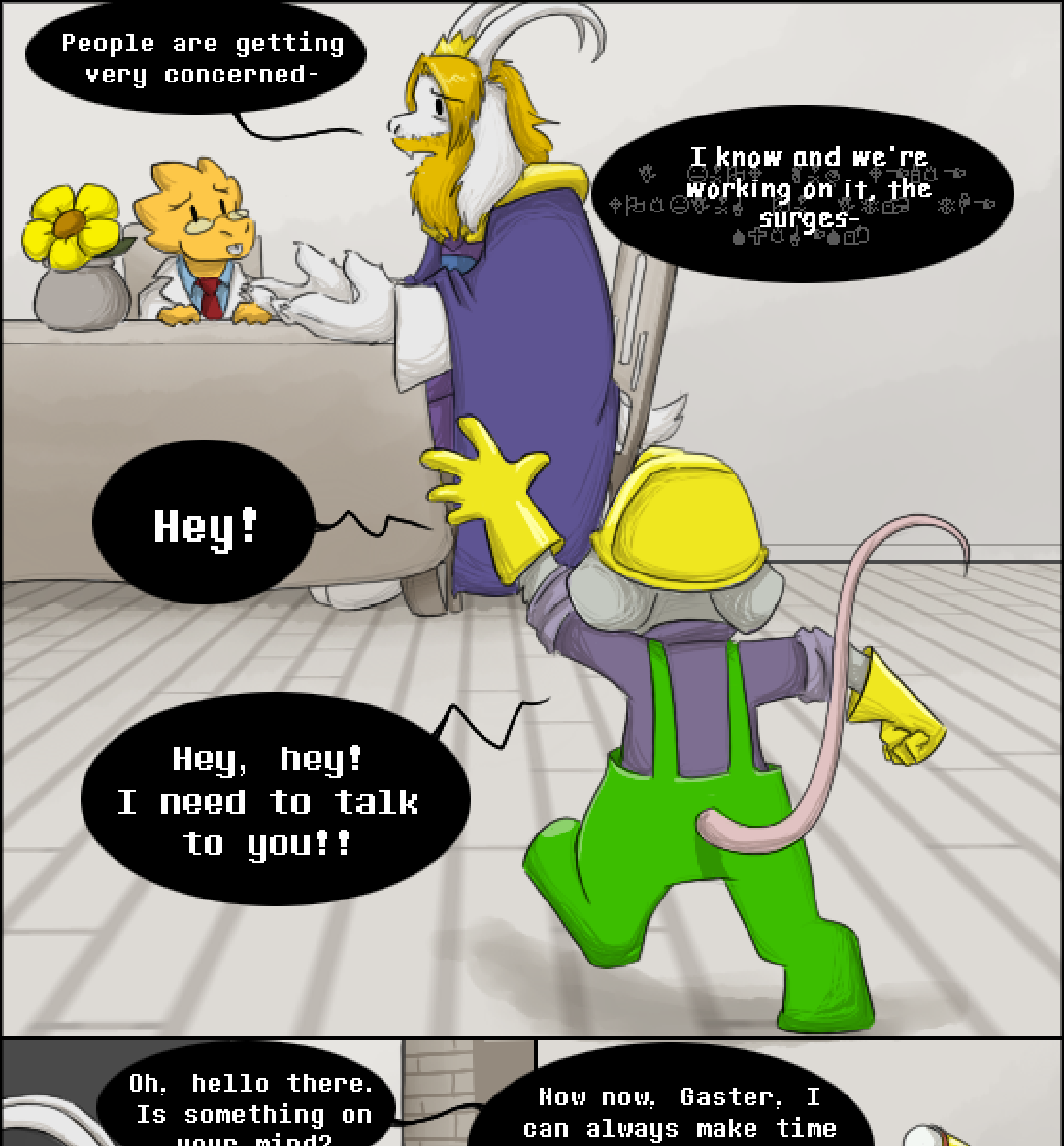
hnh
hnd

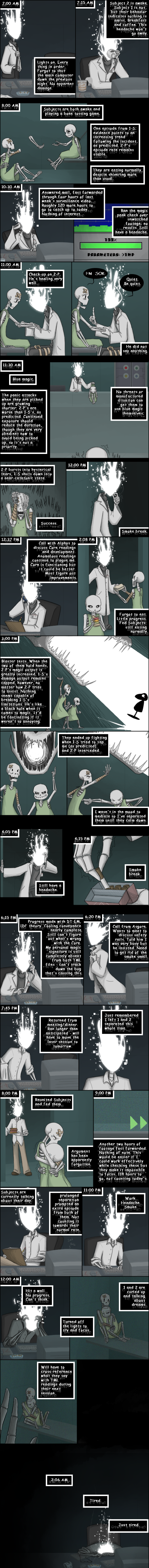
...You want to come
with me, don't you?

...

BROTHER
BROTHER

If you are quiet and
do not distract me,
I'll allow it.





7:00 AM
Subject 2 is awake. Subject 1 is not, but their behavior indicates nothing is amiss. Breakfast and coffee. This headache won't go away.

7:15 AM
Lights on. Every thing in order. Forgot to shut down the main computer the previous night. No apparent damage.

8:00 AM
Subjects are both awake and playing a bone tossing game.

10:30 AM
One episode from 1-S: evidence points to an increasing trend following the incident, as predicted. 2-P's episode rate remains stable.

10:30 AM
They are eating normally, despite shivering more than usual.

10:30 AM
Answered mail, fast forwarded through four hours of last week's surveillance video. Roughly 120 more hours to go to catch up to today. Nothing of interest.

10:30 AM
Ran the magic peak check over unwatched footage: no results. Still have a headache.

11:00 AM
Check-up on 2-P. He's healing very well.

11:00 AM
I'M SORRY.

11:00 AM
Quiet. Be quiet.

11:00 AM
He did not say anything.

11:30 AM
Blue magic.

11:30 AM
The panic attacks when they are picked up are growing shorter: 2-P's are worse than 1-S's, as predicted. Continued exposure should reduce the duration, though they are very obedient now to avoid being picked up, so it's not a priority.

11:30 AM
No threats or manufactured situation can get them to use blue magic themselves.

12:00 PM
2-P bursts into hysterical tears, 1-S shuts down into a near-catatonic state.

12:00 PM
Success.

12:00 PM
Smoke break.

12:37 PM
Call with Alphys to discuss Core readings and development. Anomalous readings continue to plague me. Core is functioning but it could be better. Must figure out improvements.

2:08 PM
Forgot to eat. Little progress. Fed Subjects: still eating normally.

3:00 PM
Blaster tests. When the two of them hold hands, 2-P's magic output is greatly increased. 1-S's damage output remains capped, however, no matter how 2-P tries to assist. Nothing seems capable of breaking 1-S's limitations. He's like a black hole when it comes to magic. It'd be fascinating if it weren't so annoying.

4:05 PM
They ended up fighting when 1-S tried to zap me (as predicted) and 2-P interceded.

4:05 PM
I wasn't in the mood to meditate so I've separated them until they calm down.

4:15 PM
Still have a headache.

4:15 PM
Smoke break.

6:15 PM
Progress made with DT-EM, IDF theory. Cooling conveyance nearly complete. Still can't figure out what's wrong with the Core. My personal magic signature is still completely absent from both TML files - can't track down the bug that's causing this.

6:20 PM
Call from Asgore. Wants to meet to discuss safety rails. Told him I was very busy but he insisted. Need to get rid of the smoke smell.

7:45 PM
Returned from meeting/dinner. Ran longer than anticipated - will have to move the laser session to tomorrow.

7:45 PM
Just remembered I left 1 and 2 separated this whole time.

8:00 PM
Reunited Subjects and fed them.

9:00 PM
Argument has been apparently forgotten.

9:00 PM
Another two hours of footage fast forwarded. Nothing of note. This would be easier if I could work effectively while checking these but they make it impossible to focus. 118 hours to go, not counting today's.

11:00 PM
Work. Headache. Smoke.

12:00 AM
Hit a wall. No progress. Can't think.

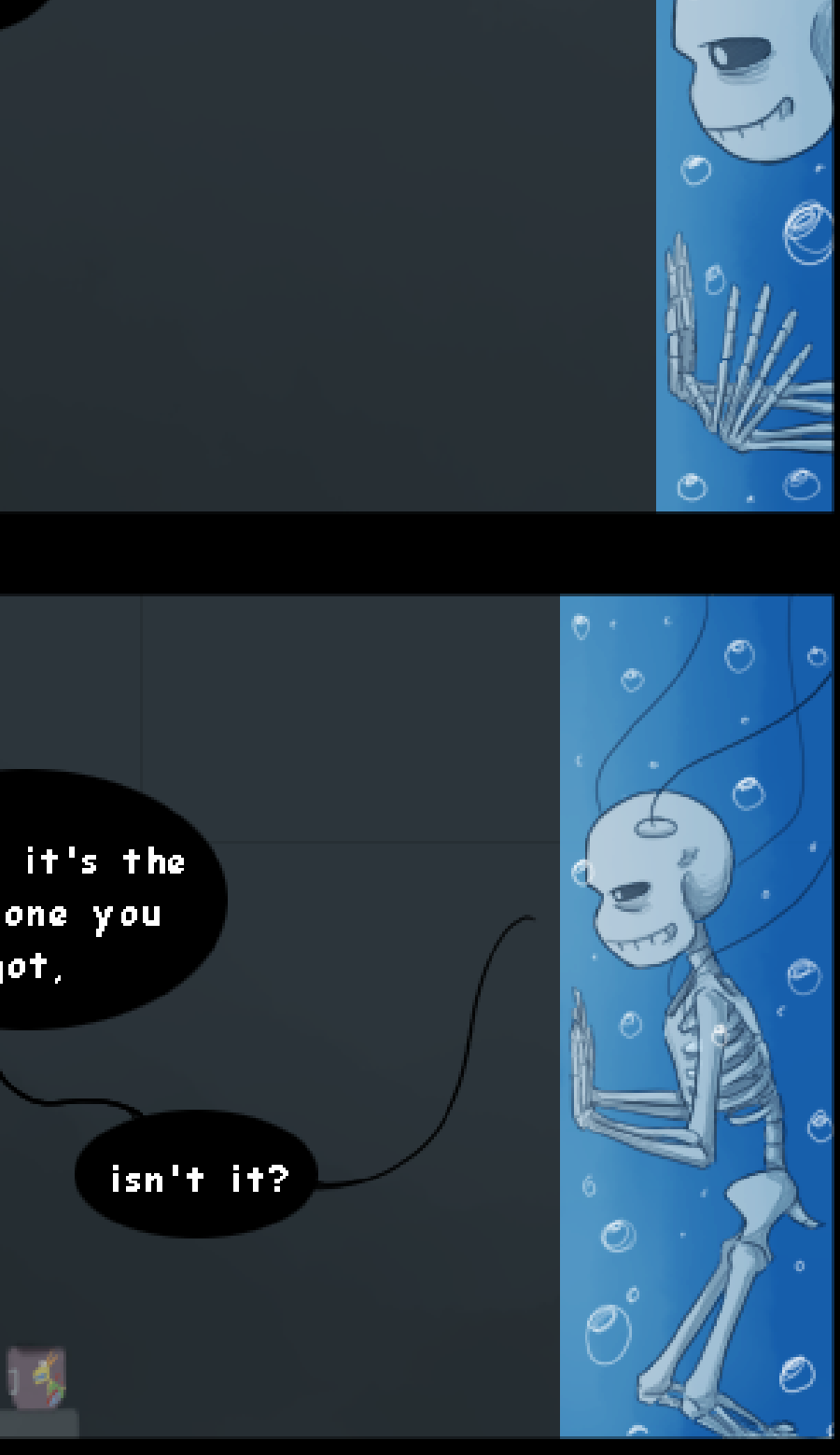
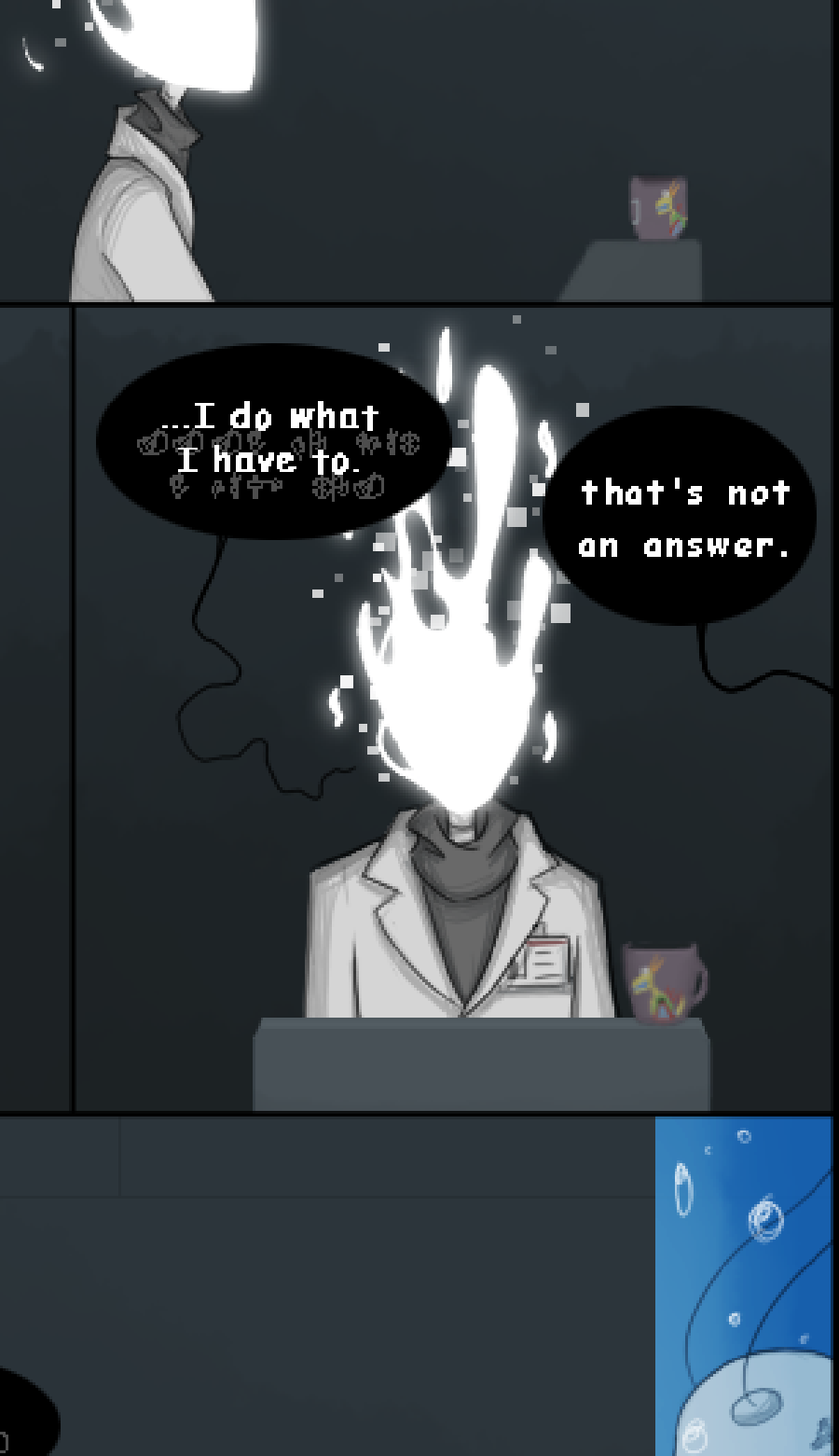
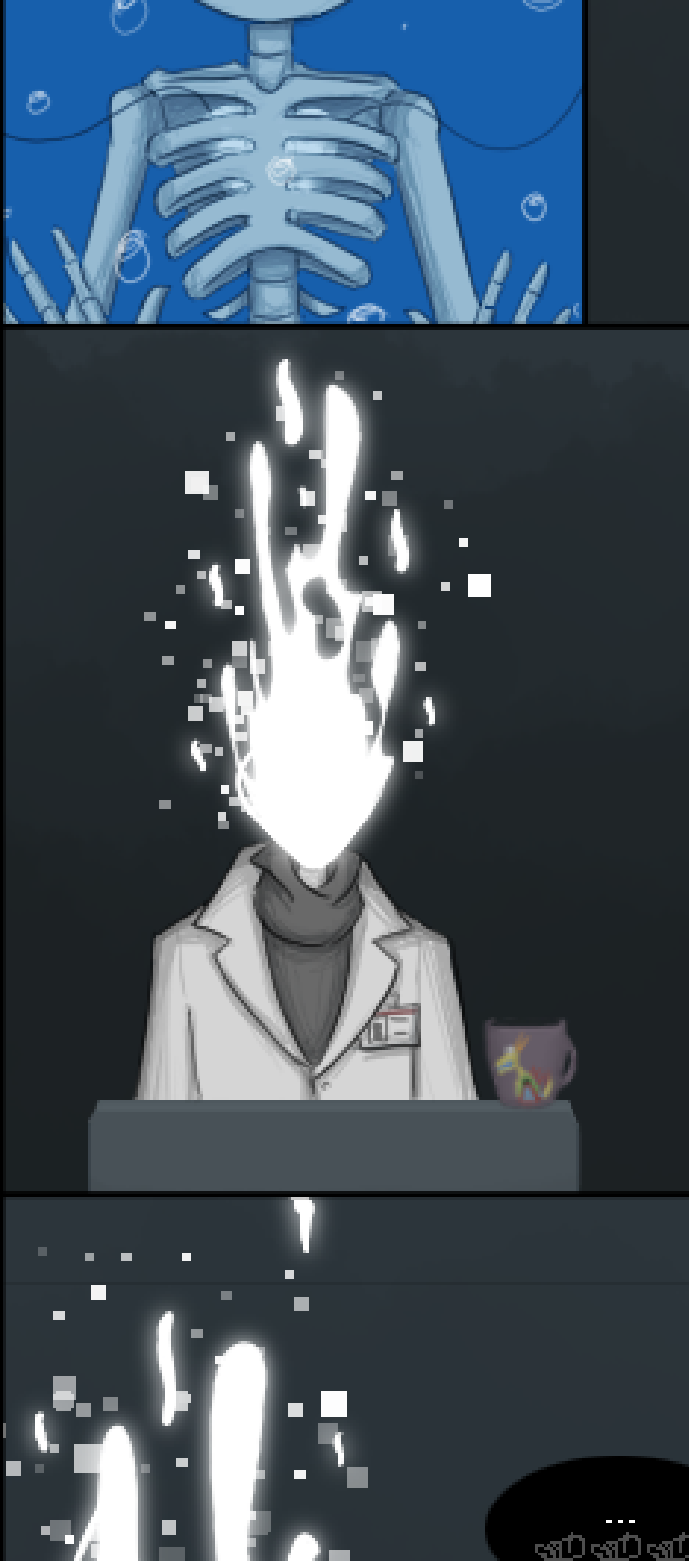
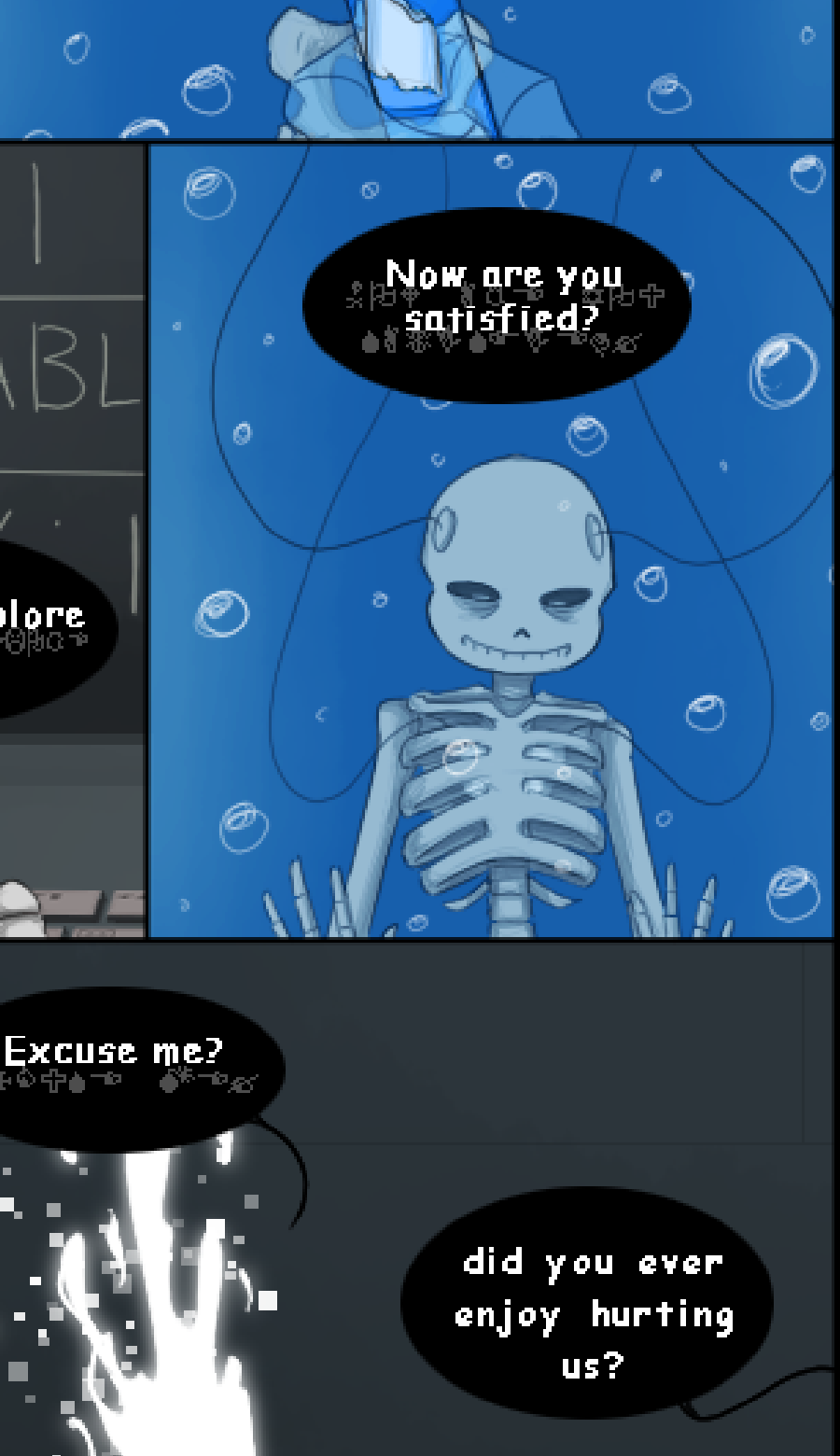
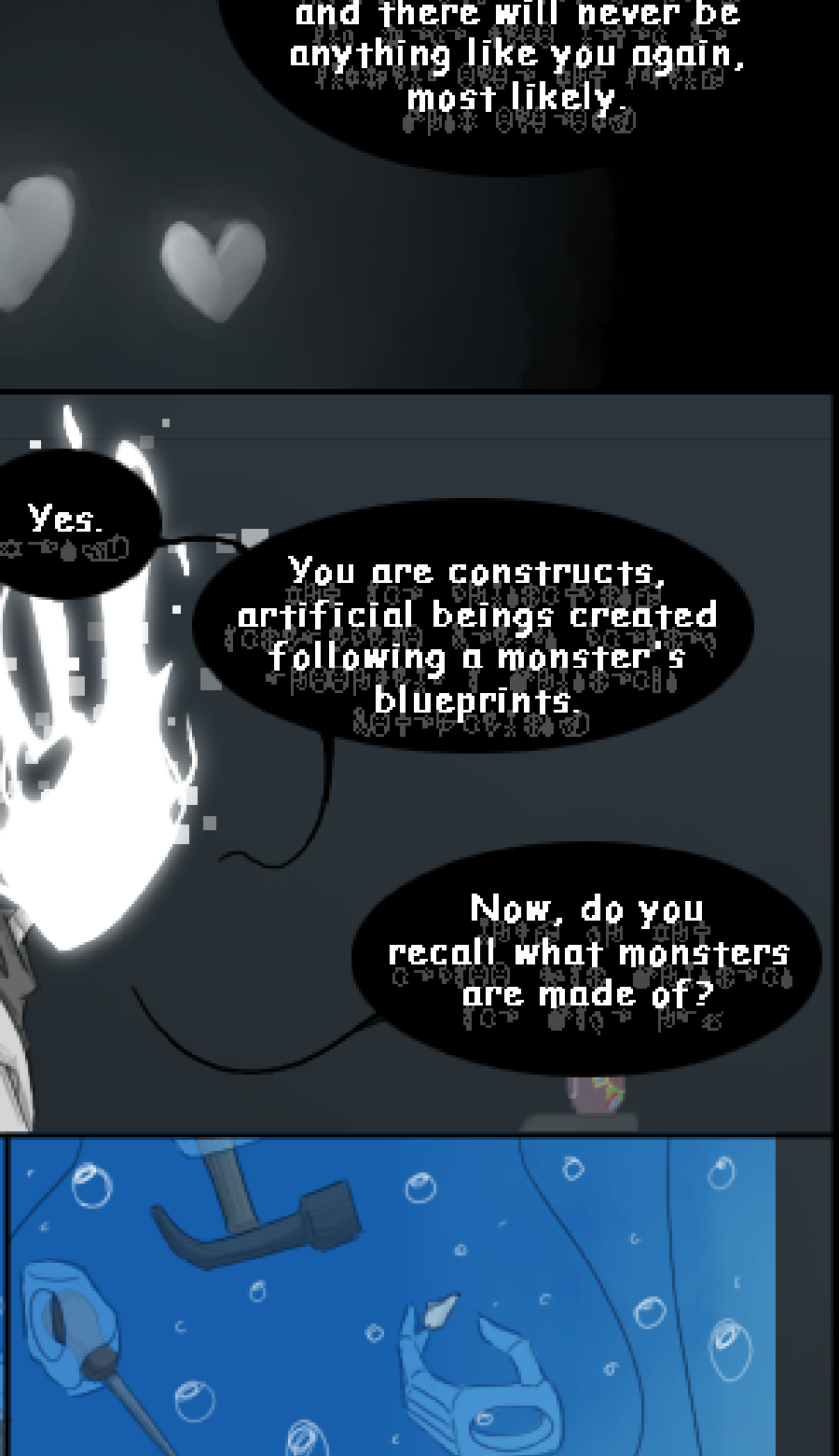
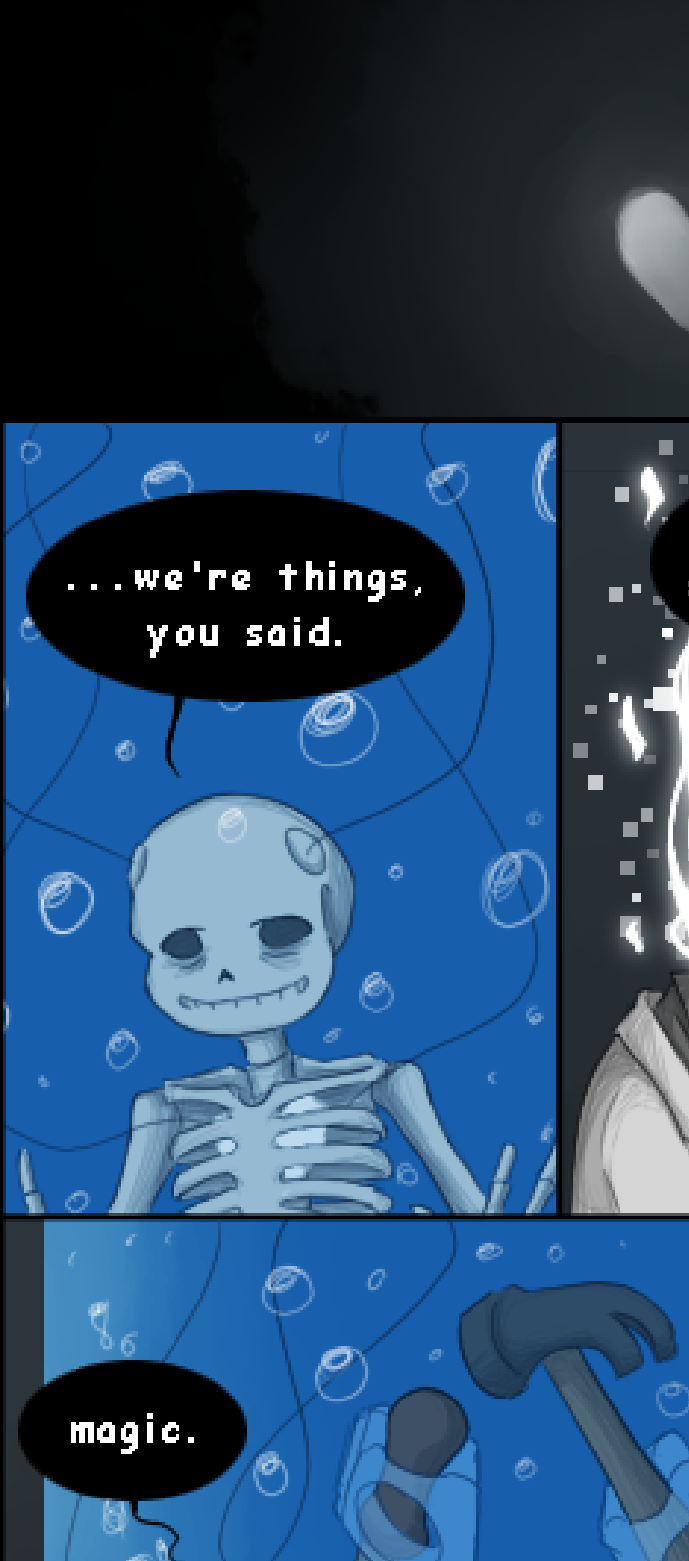
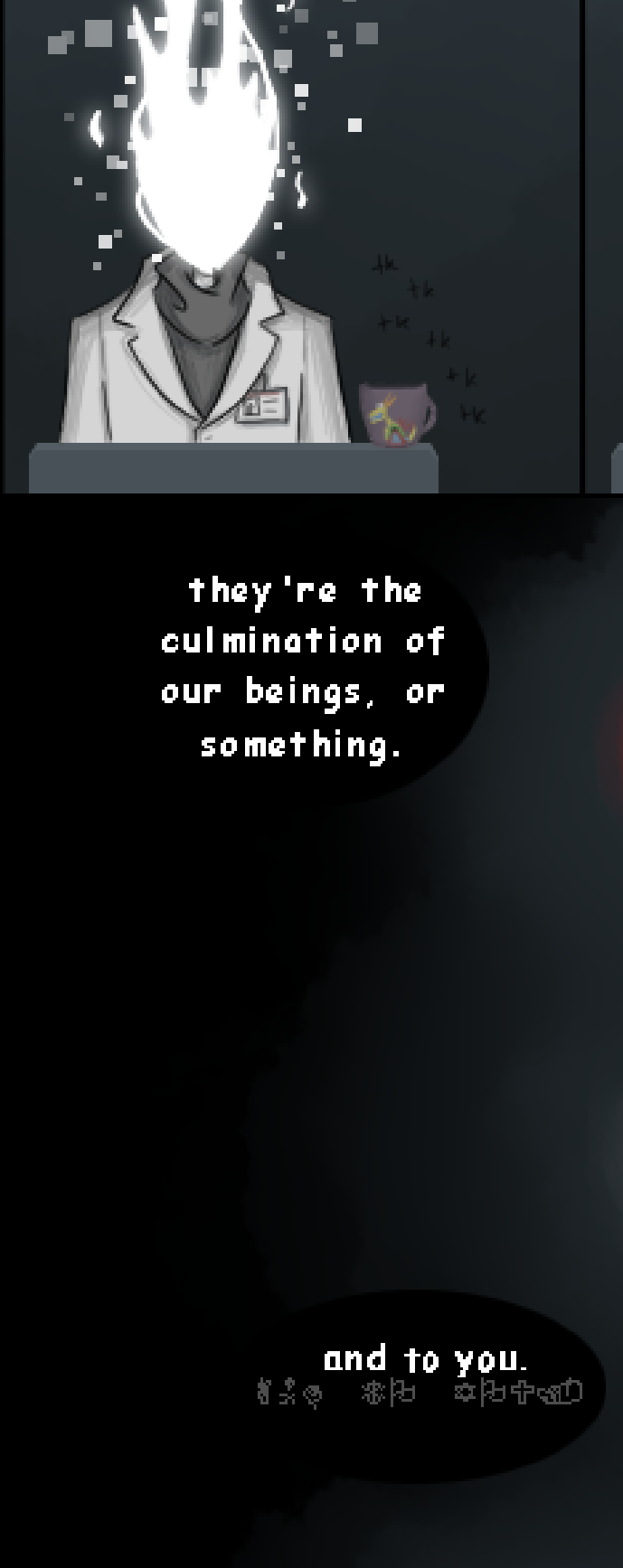
12:00 AM
1 and 2 are curled up and talking about dreams.

12:00 AM
Turned off the lights to try and focus.

2:06 AM
Will have to cross-reference what they say with TML readings during their next session.

Tired.

Just tired.





WHAT WERE YOU LIKE BEFORE YOU MADE US?

It doesn't matter.

Irrelevant.



WERE YOU NICE BACK THEN?



WERE YOU HAPPY ONCE?

WHAT HAPPENED?

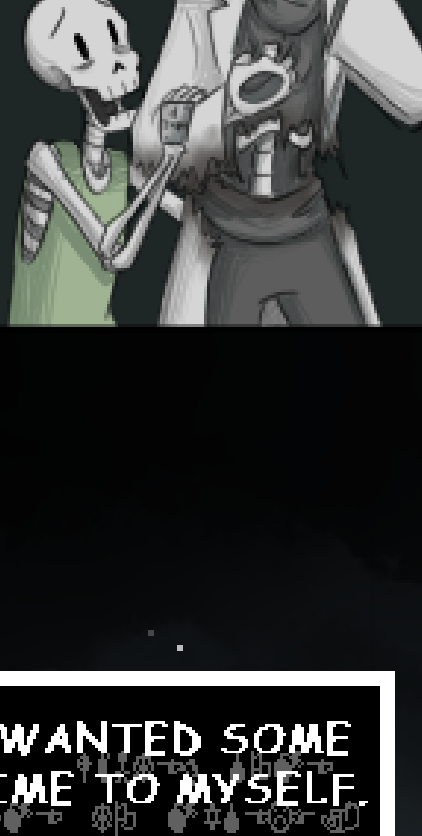
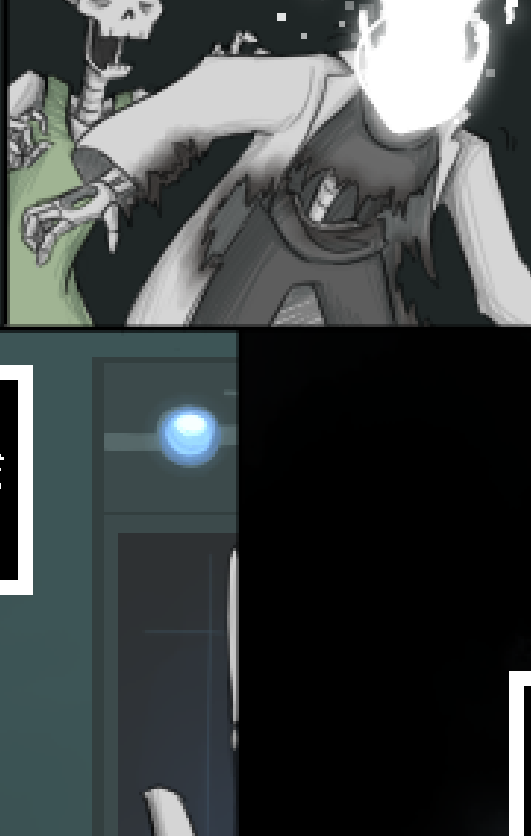
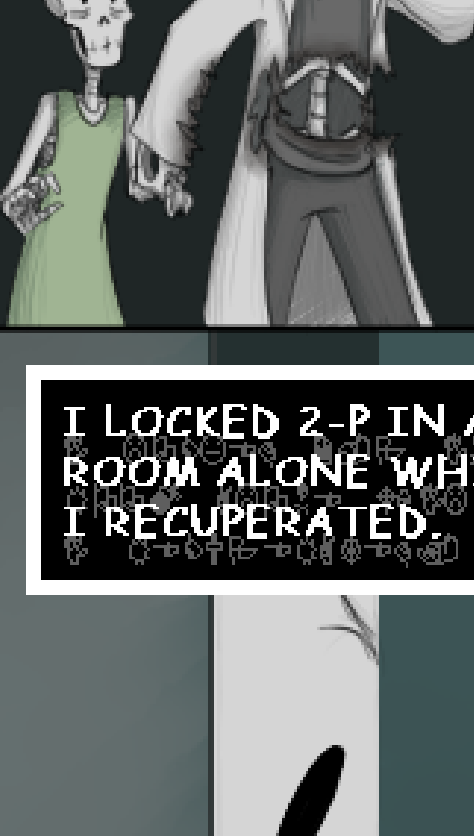


I TOOK 2-P WITH ME WHEN I LEFT.

1-S WAS TOO AGITATED TO SAFELY OPEN THE CELL WITHOUT CHANCING HIS ESCAPE. AND I WAS



NOT AT FULL STRENGTH.



I LOCKED 2-P IN A ROOM ALONE WHILE I RECUPERATED.

NORMALLY ISOLATION IS A PUNISHMENT, BUT THIS TIME I

WANTED SOME TIME TO MYSELF



2-P WAS ALREADY UPSET WHEN WE LEFT.



AND BEING LEFT SO LONG DID NO FAVORS.



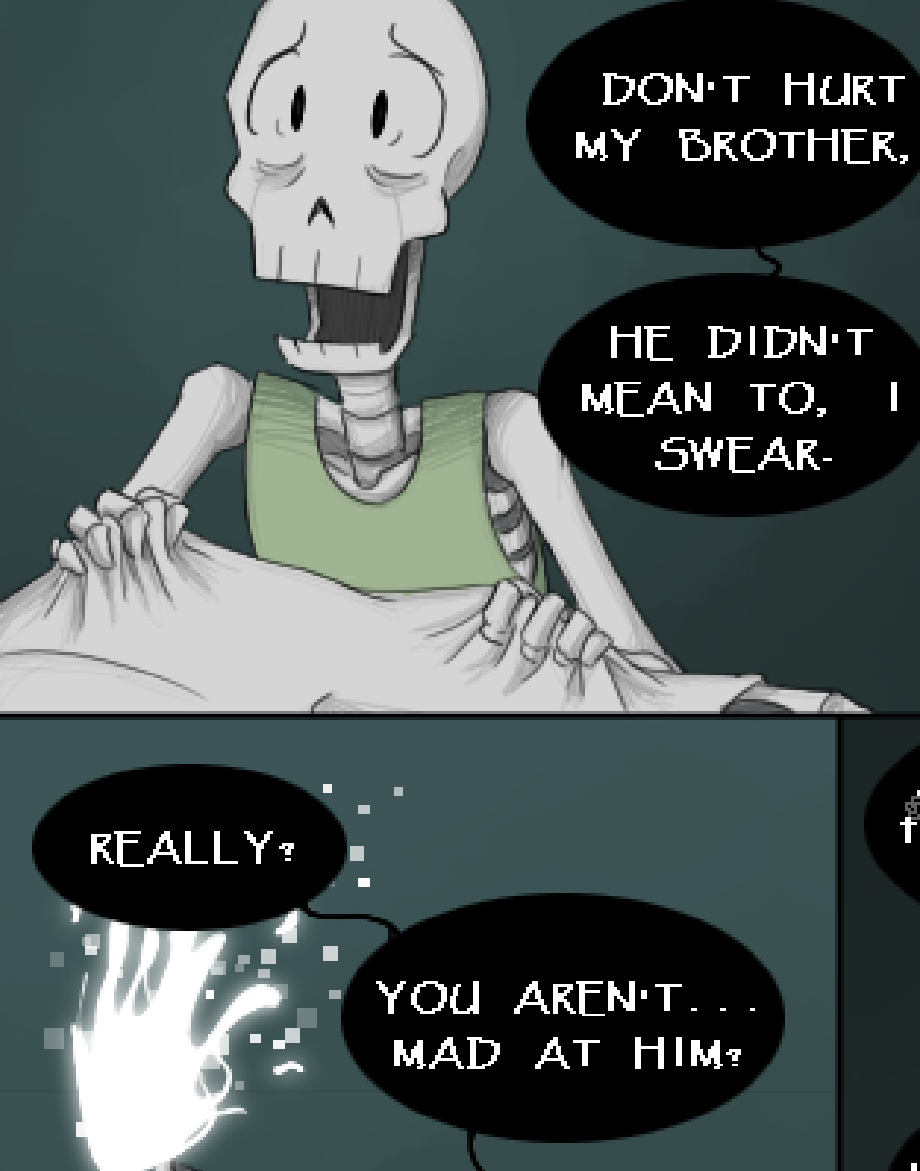
ARE YOU MAD AT US-

PLEASE DON'T HURT HIM.

DON'T HURT MY BROTHER.

HE DIDN'T MEAN TO, I SWEAR.

I'm not angry. Come on.



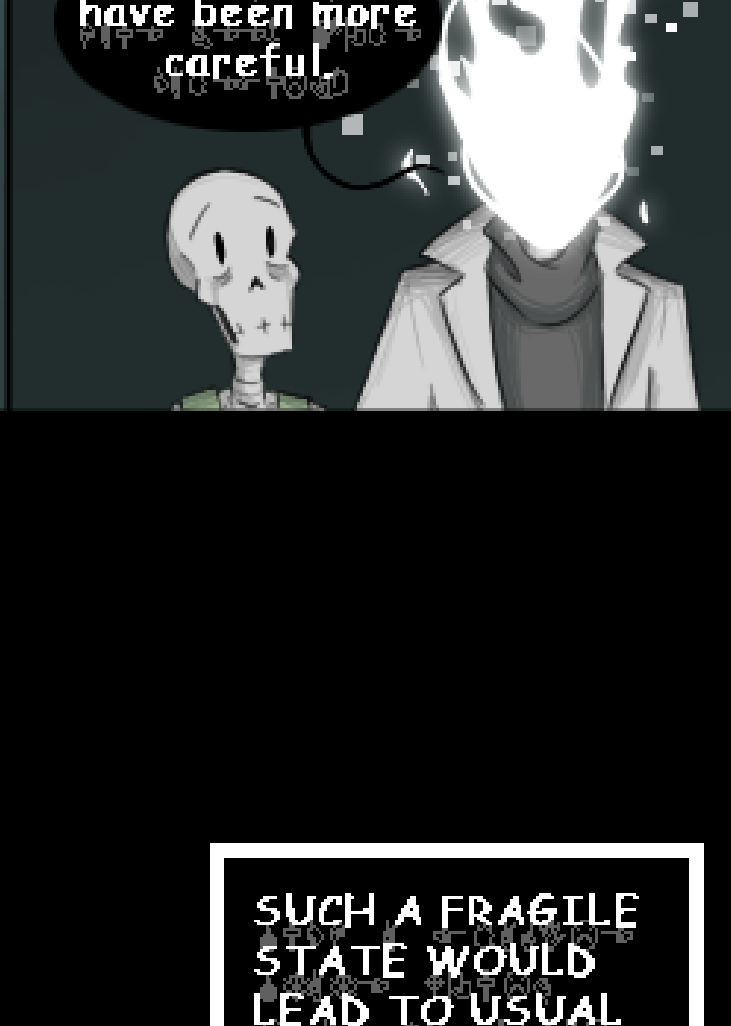
REALLY?

YOU AREN'T... MAD AT HIM?

I would have done the same thing in his place.

I'm in no position to judge.

I should have been more careful.

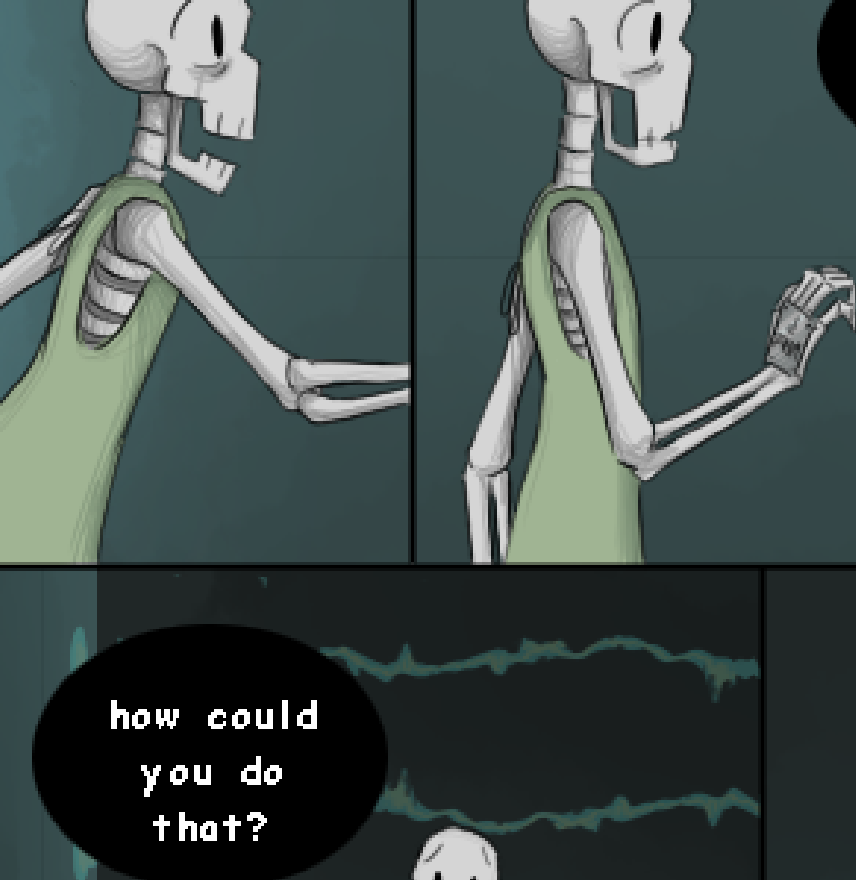


...ARE YOU MAD AT ME?

SUCH A FRAGILE STATE WOULD LEAD TO USUAL COMFORTING ON HIS RETURN OR SO I THOUGHT.



THIS TIME, THOUGH.



BROTHER ...?

how could you do that?

THINGS DID NOT GO AS USUAL

... HE ... HE WAS HURT. I ...

we could have escaped!

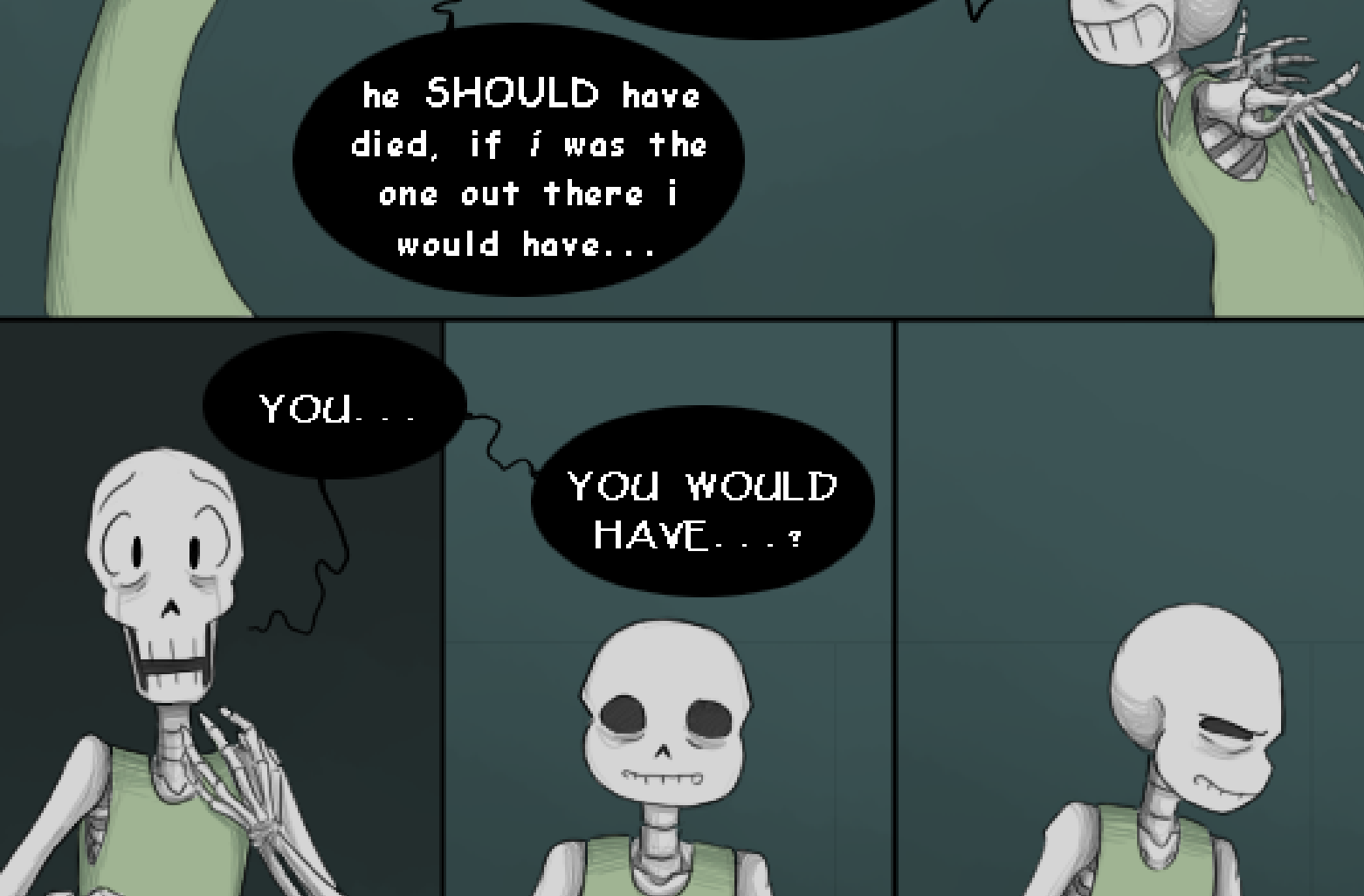
we could have got out of here and you threw it away for HIM!



WELL WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO?

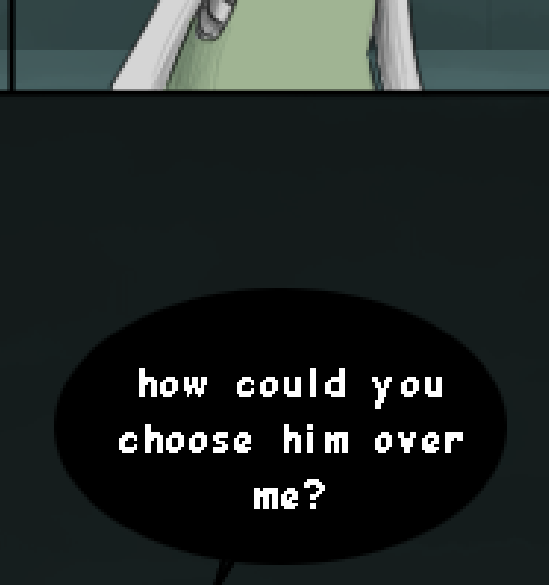
let him DIE! it's not like he doesn't deserve it after everything he's done to you!

he SHOULD have died, if i was the one out there i would have...



YOU ...

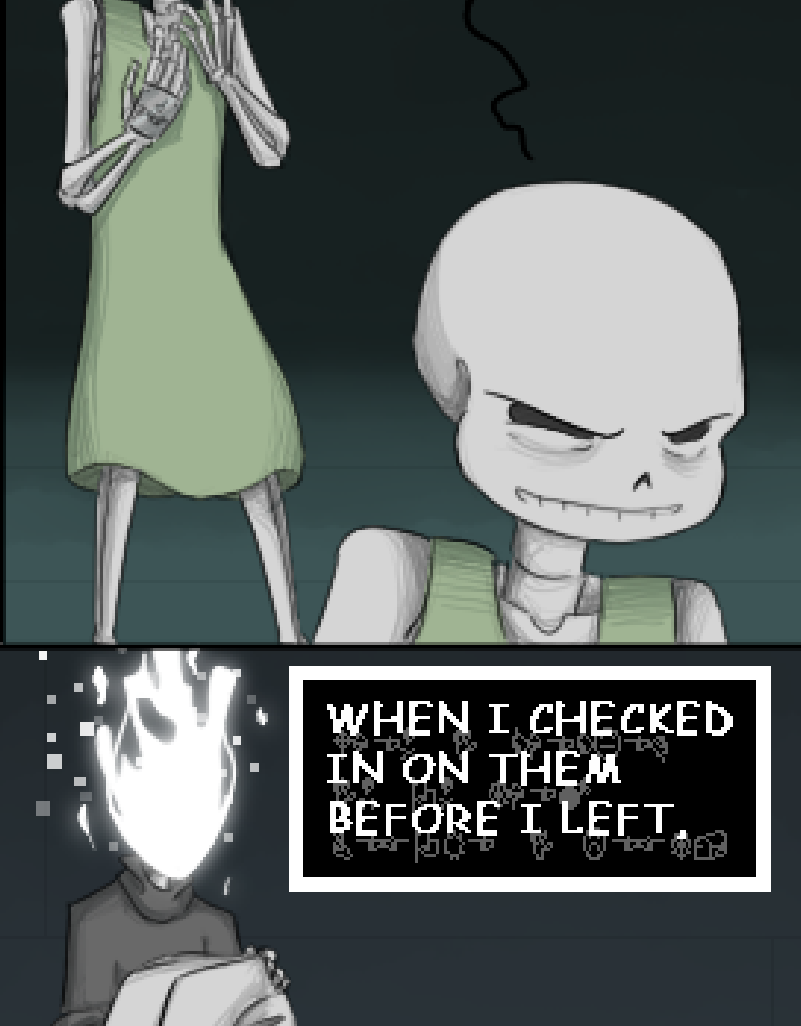
YOU WOULD HAVE...?



HOW COULD YOU...

HOW COULD YOU LET SOME ONE...

how could you choose him over me?



THEY DID NOT SAY ANYTHING MORE

WHEN I CHECKED IN ON THEM BEFORE I LEFT.

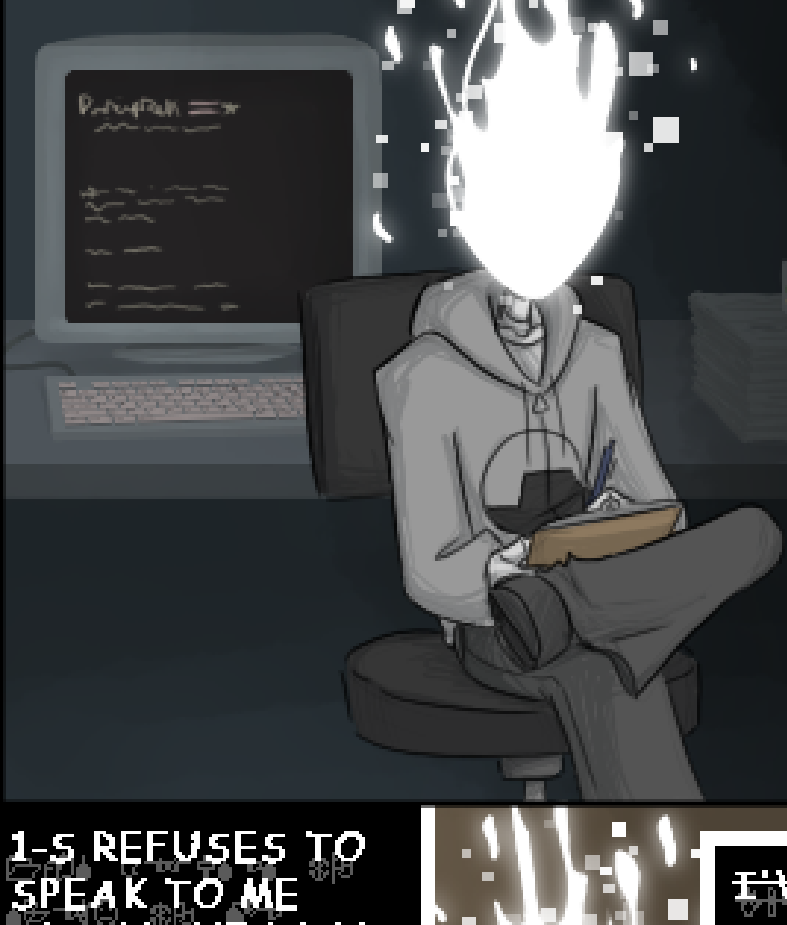


I SAW FOR THE FIRST TIME THAT THEY WERE SLEEPING APART.

I'D LONG ASSUMED THAT THE BOND THEY'D DEVELOPED WAS UNBREAKABLE ONLY STRENGTHENING UNDER DURESS. ANYTHING DONE TO DRIVE THEM APART WOULD ONLY BRING THEM CLOSER TOGETHER.

IT APPEARS I WAS WRONG.

THIS IS BECOMING WORRIESOME A POTENTIAL PROBLEM.



THE TWO OF THEM HAVE NOT RECONCILED, AND AS A RESULT THEY ARE DOING POORLY.

I REMEMBER BEING CONCERNED ABOUT THIS EARLIER WHEN I FIRST INTRODUCED THEM TO EACH OTHER - MY MISGIVINGS WERE NOT UNFOUNDED.

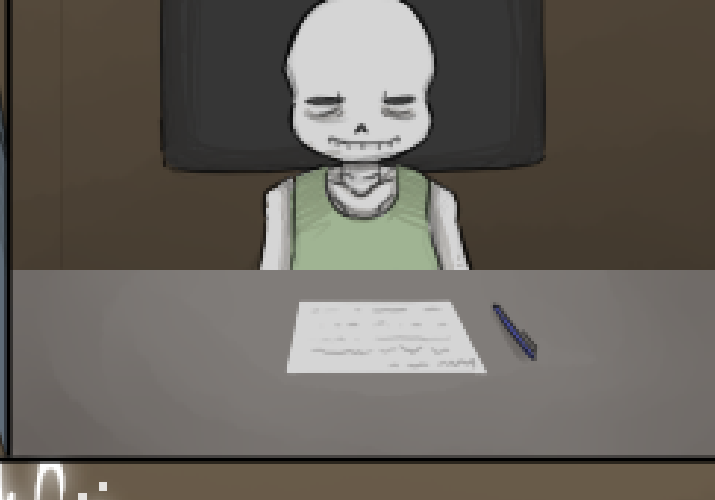
THEIR FIRST TASTE OF LONELINESS IS POISONING THEM.

1-S REFUSES TO SPEAK TO ME AT ALL. HE WILL FOLLOW DIRECTIONS, BUT HE PUTS IN ONLY THE BAREST MINIMUM OF EFFORT, REGARDLESS OF THREATS OR PUNISHMENT.

I'VE GROWN USED TO

NORMALLY HE TRIES TO ENGAGE ME IN DEBATE OR GET ON MY NERVES IN SOME ATTEMPT TO PROVE SOMETHING.

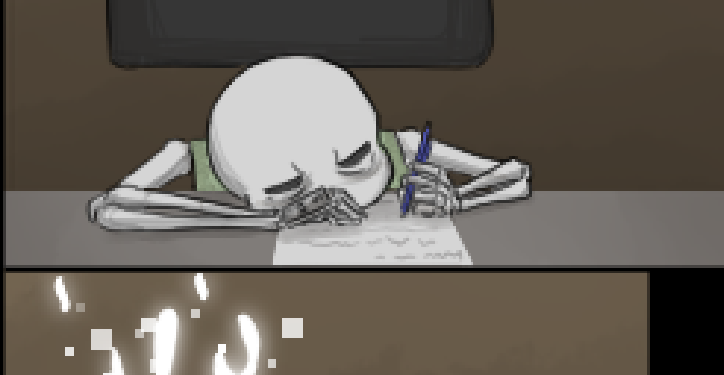
BUT LATELY



NOTHING.

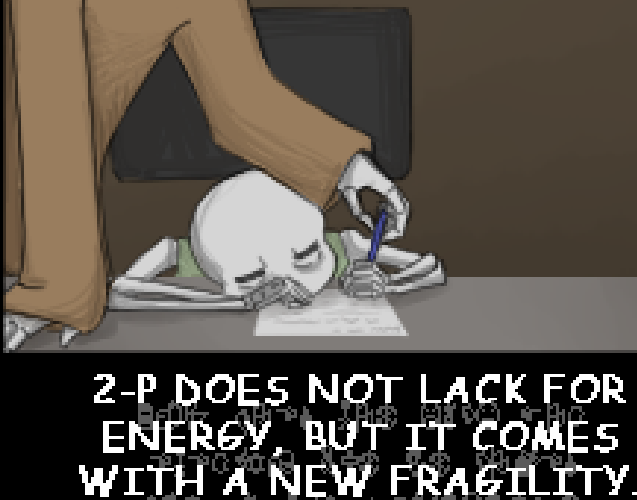
HE DOES NOT EVEN SEEM ANGRY.

JUST LIFELESS.

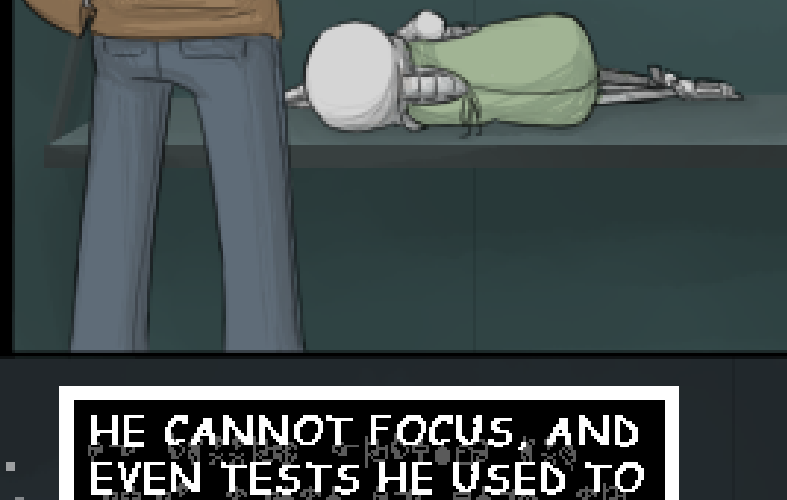


HOPELESS.

EVEN THE SLIGHTEST MOVEMENT SEEMS TO EXHAUST HIM.

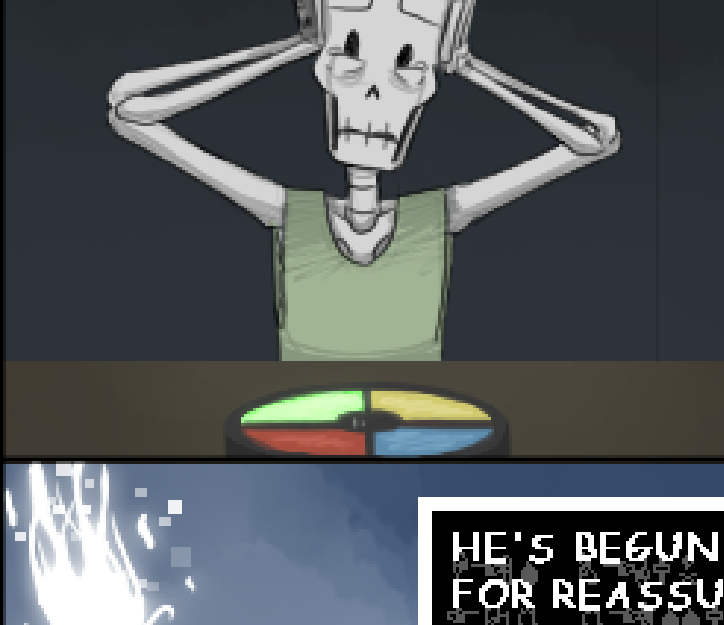


IT IS WORRYINGLY INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO GET HIM TO EVEN WAKE UP EACH DAY.



2-P DOES NOT LACK FOR ENERGY, BUT IT COMES WITH A NEW FRAGILITY. HE'D RELIED ON HIS B 1-S'S SUPPORT BEFORE WHENEVER HE FAILED AT SOMETHING, AND NOW, WITH NOTHING TO BOLSTER HIM, HE IS LOST.

HE CANNOT FOCUS, AND EVEN TESTS HE USED TO PASS ARE BECOMING IMPOSSIBLE WITH EACH NEW FAILURE HE GETS WORSE.



HE'S BEGUN ASKING ME FOR REASSURANCE.

WHICH CERTAINLY PROVES HE'S DESPERATE.



IT'S STRANGE TO SEE THEM SO QUIET.

I WONDER WHAT THEY'RE THINKING ABOUT.



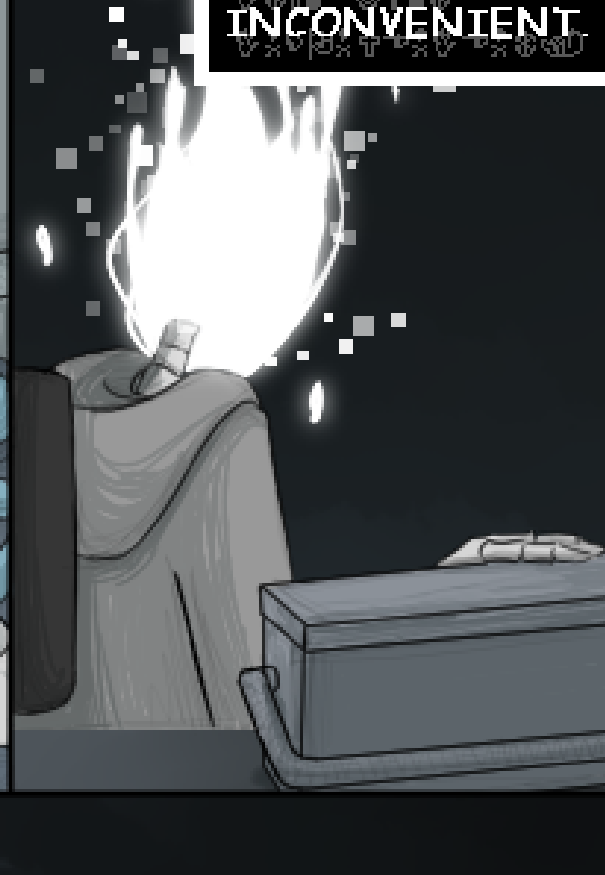
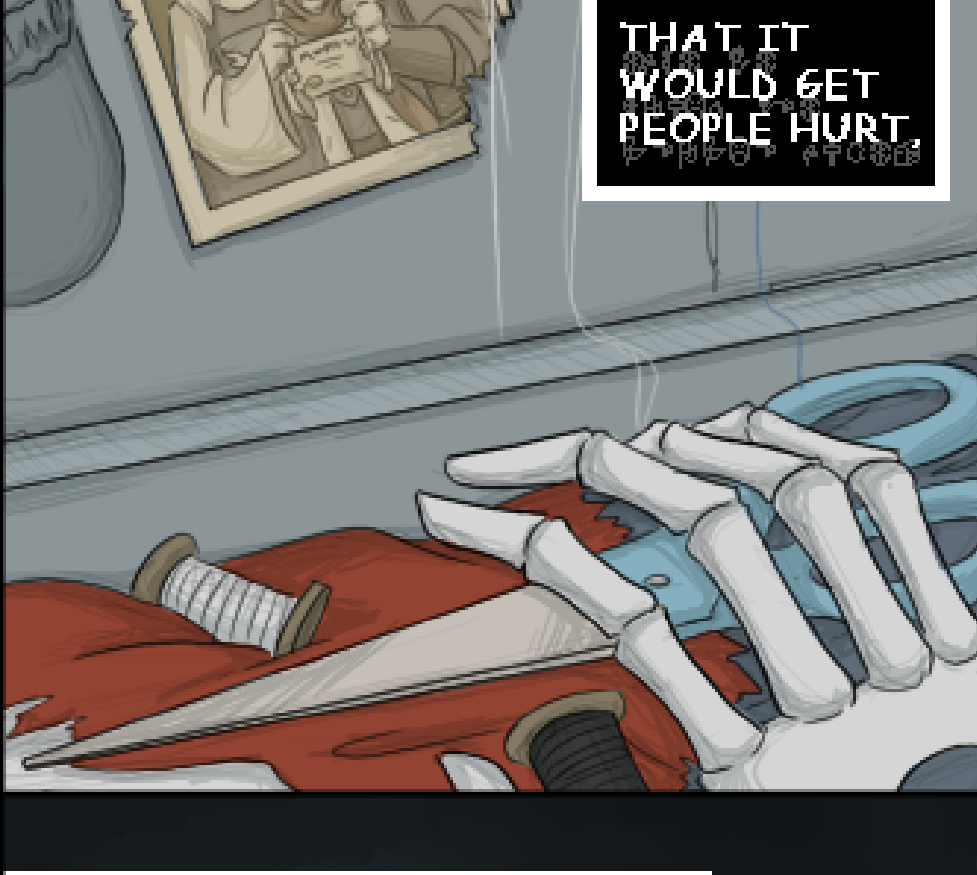
I ALWAYS THOUGHT I'D ENJOY THE DAY WHEN 2-P REALIZED THAT HIS MERCY WOULD HAVE REAL CONSEQUENCES.



BUT NOW THAT IT'S COME

IT'S JUST INCONVENIENT.

THAT IT WOULD GET PEOPLE HURT.



AT THIS RATE, LITTLE IS GOING TO BE ACCOMPLISHED. I'M NOT SURE THEY'LL EVEN HEAL EACH OTHER PROPERLY LIKE THIS.

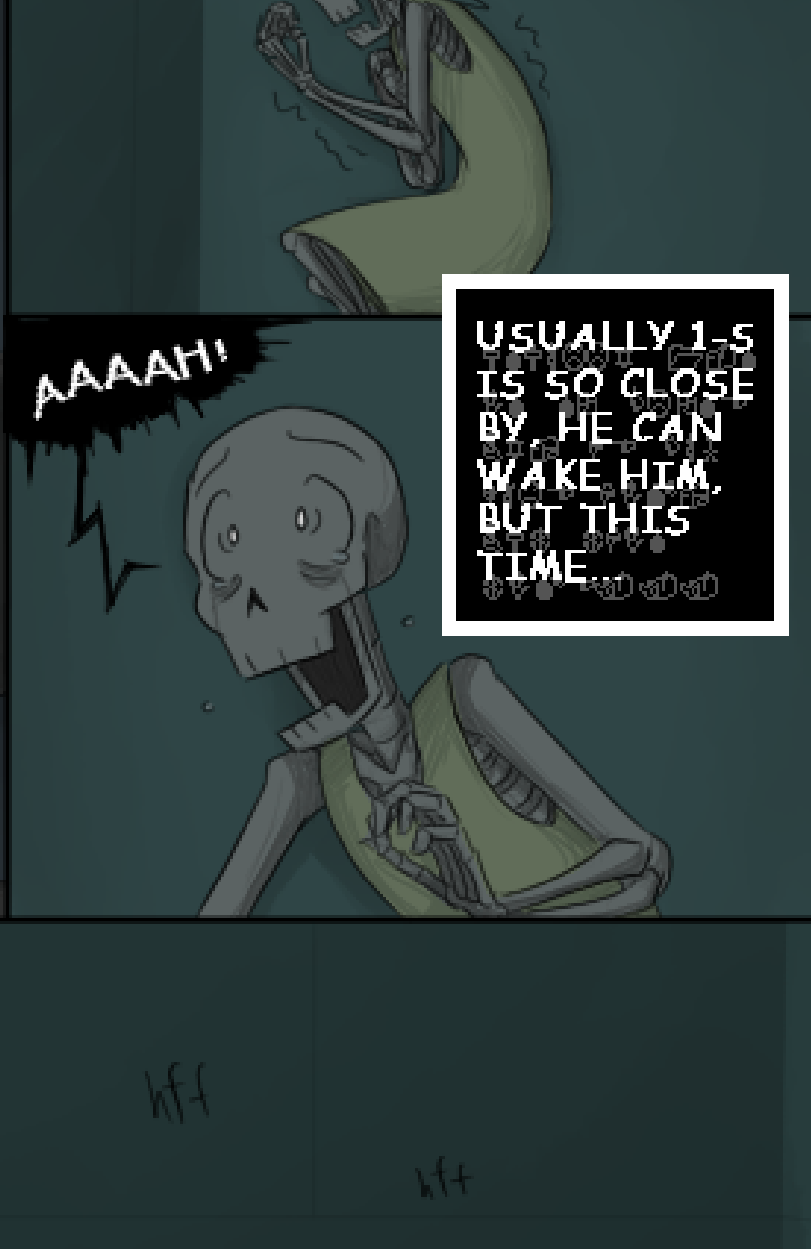
THE QUESTION IS, WHAT TO DO? THESE SORTS OF SOCIAL DRAMAS ARE, ADMITTEDLY, NOT IN MY SKILLSET.



I'M NOT SURE I WOULDN'T JUST MAKE THINGS WORSE. I AM THE FOCAL POINT OF THIS ENTIRE ARGUMENT, AFTER ALL.



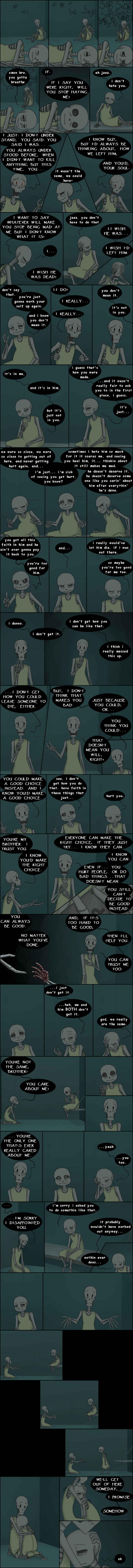
IT LOOKS AS THOUGH 2-P IS HAVING A NIGHTMARE.



USUALLY 1-S IS SO CLOSE BY, HE CAN WAKE HIM, BUT THIS TIME



HE IS ALONE.



emom bro, you gotta breathe

IF-
IF I SAY YOU WERE RIGHT, WILL YOU STOP HATING ME?

ah jeez.
i don't hate you.

I JUST- I DON'T UNDERSTAND. YOU SAID- YOU SAID I WAS... YOU ALWAYS UNDERSTOOD BEFORE. WHEN I DIDN'T WANT TO KILL ANYTHING BUT THIS TIME. YOU...

it wasn't the same, we could have-

I KNOW BUT, BUT I'D ALWAYS BE THINKING ABOUT, HOW WE LEFT HIM, AND YOU'D, YOUR SOUL-

I WANT TO SAY WHATEVER WILL MAKE YOU STOP BEING MAD AT ME BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS!

I...

I WISH HE WAS DEAD!

jeez, you don't have to do that

I-I WISH HE WAS...

I WISH I'D LEFT HIM.

don't say that. you're just gonna work your self up again.

and i know you don't mean it.

I-I DO!
I REALLY...

I REALLY...

you don't mean it.

it's not in you.

it's in me,
and it's in him,

but it's just not in you.

i guess that's how you were made.

...and it wasn't really fair to ask you to, in the first place, i guess.

it's just...

we were so close, we were so close to getting out of here, and never getting hurt again, and...

i'm just... i'm sick of seeing you get hurt, you know?

sometimes i hate him so much for it it scares me, and seeing you heal him, it... thinkin about it still makes me mad.

he doesn't deserve it. he doesn't deserve some one like you carin' about him after everythin' he's done.

you got all this faith in him and he ain't ever gonna pay it back to you.

you're too good for him.

and...

i really would've let him die, if i was out there,

so maybe you're too good for me too.

i dunno.

i don't get it.

i don't get how you can be like that.

i think i really messed this up.

...I DON'T GET HOW YOU COULD LEAVE SOMEONE TO DIE, EITHER.

BUT, I DON'T THINK THAT MAKES YOU BAD.

JUST BECAUSE YOU COULD, OR...

YOU THINK YOU COULD...

THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU WILL, RIGHT?

YOU COULD MAKE A GOOD CHOICE INSTEAD. AND I KNOW YOU'D MAKE A GOOD CHOICE.

see, i don't get how you do that. have faith in these things that just...

hurt you.

YOU'RE MY BROTHER. I TRUST YOU.

I KNOW YOU'D MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE.

EVERYONE CAN MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE, IF THEY JUST TRY... I KNOW THEY CAN.

I KNOW YOU CAN.

EVEN IF... YOU HURT PEOPLE, OR DO BAD THINGS... THAT DOESN'T MEAN

YOU STILL CAN'T DECIDE TO BE GOOD INSTEAD.

YOU CAN ALWAYS BE GOOD.

AND, IF IT'S TOO HARD TO BE GOOD,

THEN I'LL HELP YOU.

NO MATTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE.

YOU CAN TRUST ME TOO.

...i just don't get it.

...heh, me and him BOTH don't get it.

god, we really are the same.

YOU'RE NOT THE SAME, BROTHER!

YOU CARE ABOUT ME!

... YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE THAT'S EVER REALLY CARED ABOUT ME.

...yeah

...you too.

... I'M SORRY I DISAPPOINTED YOU.

i'm sorry i asked you to do somethin like that.

it probably wouldn't have worked out anyway...

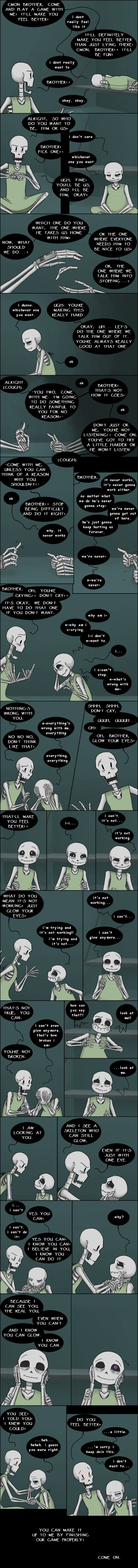
nothin ever does...

WE'LL GET OUT OF HERE SOMEDAY, I PROMISE.

SOMEHOW.

ok





CMON BROTHER, COME AND PLAY A GAME WITH ME! IT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER!

i dont really feel like it

IT'LL DEFINITELY MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER THAN JUST LYING THERE! CMON, BROTHER!! IT'LL BE FUN!

i dont really want to

BROTHER!!

okay, okay.

ALRIGHT, SO WHO DO YOU WANT TO BE, HIM OR US?

i don't care

BROTHER! PICK ONE!!

whichever one you want

UGH, FINE! YOU'LL BE US, AND I'LL BE HIM, OKAY?

WHICH ONE DO YOU WANT, THE ONE WHERE HE TAKES US HOME WITH HIM?

NOW, WHAT SHOULD WE DO...?

OR THE ONE WHERE EVERYONE NEEDS HIM TO BE NICE TO US?

OR, THE ONE WHERE WE TALK HIM INTO STOPPING...?

i dunno, whichever one you want.

UGH! YOU'RE MAKING THIS REALLY HARD.

OKAY, UH... LET'S DO THE ONE WHERE WE TALK HIM OUT OF IT. YOU'RE ALWAYS REALLY GOOD AT THAT ONE.

ok

ALRIGHT (COUGH).

ok

BROTHER! THAT'S NOT HOW IT GOES!

ok

-YOU TWO, COME WITH ME. I'M GOING TO DO SOMETHING REALLY PAINFUL TO YOU FOR NO REASON!-

DON'T JUST OK ME, YOU'RE NOT LISTENING!! COME ON, YOU'VE GOT TO TRY A LITTLE HARDER OR HE WON'T LISTEN.

(COUGH)

-COME WITH ME, UNLESS YOU CAN THINK OF A REASON WHY YOU SHOULDN'T!-

BROTHER-

it never works, it's never gonna work either,

no matter what we do he's never gonna stop-

we're never gonna get out of here,

he's just gonna keep hurting us forever,

we're never-

w-we're never-

ok

BROTHER!! STOP BEING DIFFICULT AND DO IT RIGHT!

why, it never works

BROTHER- OH, YOU'RE CRYING!! DON'T CRY!!

IT'S OKAY, WE DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT ONE IF YOU DON'T WANT.

why am i-

w-why am i c-crying,

i-i don't w-want to,

i...

i c-can't stop,

w-what's wrong with me-

NOTHING'S WRONG WITH YOU.

e-everything's wrong with me, everything

NO NO NO, DON'T THINK LIKE THAT!

everything, everything

SHHH, SHHH, DON'T CRY,

UUUH, UUUUH...

OH! OH, BROTHER, GLOW YOUR EYES!

THAT'LL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER!!

i-i...

i can't, it's not...

it's not working

WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT'S NOT WORKING? JUST GLOW YOUR EYES!

i'm trying and it's not working!!

i'm trying and it's not...

it's not working...

i can't...

i can't glow anymore...

THAT'S NOT TRUE, YOU CAN.

i can't even glow anymore, that's how broken i am-

YOU'RE NOT BROKEN.

how can you say that?!

look at me!!

I AM LOOKING AT YOU.

AND I SEE A SKELETON WHO CAN STILL GLOW.

EVEN IF IT'S JUST WITH ONE EYE.

i... i can't

YES YOU CAN!

i can't, i can't do it-

YES YOU CAN, I KNOW YOU CAN! I BELIEVE IN YOU, I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT.

why?

BECAUSE I CAN SEE YOU, THE REAL YOU,

EVEN WHEN YOU CAN'T.

AND I KNOW YOU CAN GLOW.

I KNOW YOU CAN.

YOU SEE? I TOLD YOU! I KNEW YOU COULD!

...heh... heheh, i guess you were right.

DO YOU FEEL BETTER?

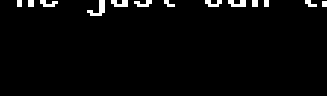
...a little.

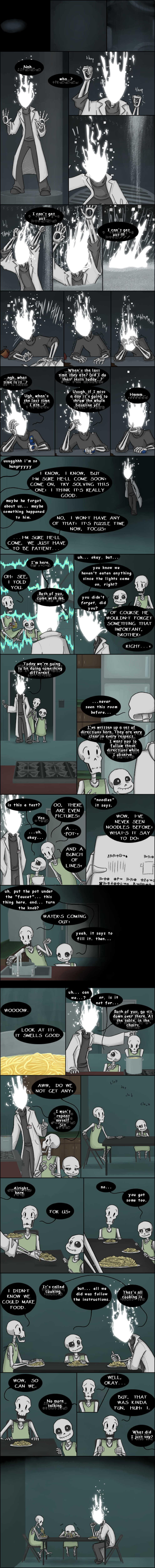
...'m sorry i keep doin this.

i don't want to...

YOU CAN MAKE IT UP TO ME BY FINISHING OUR GAME PROPERLY!

COME ON.





Nnh...

wha...?

I can't get out...

I can't get out!!!

...ngh, what time is it?

Ugh, when's the last time I ate...?

When's the last time they ate? Did I do their tests today?

Uuugh, if I miss a day it's going to throw the whole baseline off

Hmmm...

uuugghhh i'm so hungryyyy

I KNOW, I KNOW, BUT I'M SURE HE'LL COME SOON! COME ON, TRY SOLVING THIS ONE! I THINK IT'S REALLY GOOD.

maybe he forgot about us... maybe something happened to him.

NO, I WON'T HAVE ANY OF THAT! IT'S PUZZLE TIME NOW, FOCUS!

... I'M SURE HE'LL COME, WE JUST HAVE TO BE PATIENT...

OH! SEE, I TOLD YOU

I'm here.

Both of you, come with me.

uh... okay, but...

you know we haven't eaten anything since the lights came on, right?

you didn't forget, did you?

OF COURSE HE WOULDN'T FORGET SOMETHING THAT IMPORTANT, BROTHER!

RIGHT...?

Today we're going to be doing something different

...never seen this room before...

I've written up a set of directions here. They are very clear in every respect

I want you to follow these directions while I observe

is this a test?

Yes.

...uh, okay...

OO. THERE ARE EVEN PICTURES!

A... POT?

AND A BUNCH OF LINES?

"noodles" it says.

WOW, I'VE NEVER SEEN NOODLES BEFORE! WHAT'S IT SAY TO DO?

uh, put the pot under the "faucet"... this thing here, and... turn the knob?

WATER'S COMING OUT!

yeah, it says to fill it. then...

WOOOOW.

LOOK AT IT! IT SMELLS GOOD.

uh... can we...?

or, is it not for...

Both of you, go sit down over there. At the table, in the chairs

AWW, DO WE NOT GET ANY?

I won't repeat myself. Sit.

no...

you got some too.

I DIDN'T KNOW WE COULD MAKE FOOD.

It's called cooking.

but... all we did was follow the instructions.

That's all cooking is.

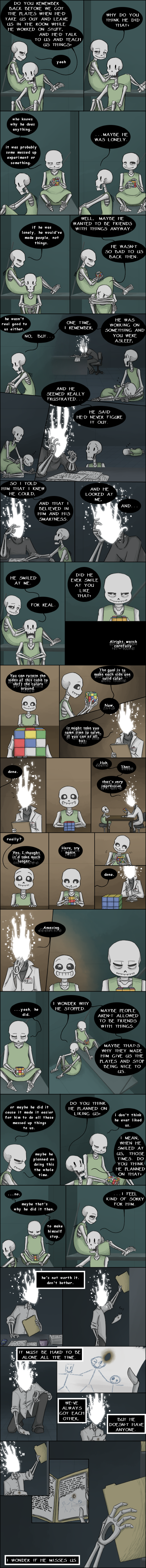
WOW, SO CAN WE-

No more talking.

WELL, OKAY...

BUT, THAT WAS KINDA FUN, HUH? I-

What did I just say?



DO YOU REMEMBER BACK BEFORE WE GOT THE PLATES WHEN HE'D TAKE US OUT AND LEAVE US IN THE ROOM WHILE HE WORKED ON STUFF, AND HE'D TALK TO US AND TEACH US THINGS?

yeah

WHY DO YOU THINK HE DID THAT?

who knows why he does anything.

it was probably some messed up experiment or something.

... MAYBE HE WAS LONELY.

if he was lonely, he would've made people, not things.

WELL, MAYBE HE WANTED TO BE FRIENDS WITH THINGS ANYWAY.

HE WASN'T SO BAD TO US BACK THEN.

he wasn't real good to us either.

NO, BUT...

ONE TIME, I REMEMBER.

HE WAS WORKING ON SOMETHING AND YOU WERE ASLEEP.

AND HE SEEMED REALLY FRUSTRATED...

HE SAID HE'D NEVER FIGURE IT OUT.

SO I TOLD HIM THAT I KNEW HE COULD,

AND THAT I BELIEVED IN HIM AND HIS SMARTNESS.

AND HE LOOKED AT ME,

AND...

HE SMILED AT ME.

FOR REAL.

DID HE EVER SMILE AT YOU LIKE THAT?

Alright, watch carefully.

You can rotate the sides of this cube to shift the colors around.

The goal is to make each side one solid color.

Now,

it might take you some time to solve, if you can at all, but-

done.

Huh.

That.

that's very impressive.

really?

Yes, I thought it'd take much longer.

Here, try again.

done.

...Amazing.

...yeah, he did.

I WONDER WHY HE STOPPED.

MAYBE PEOPLE AREN'T ALLOWED TO BE FRIENDS WITH THINGS.

MAYBE THAT'S WHY THEY MADE HIM GIVE US THE PLATES AND STOP BEING NICE TO US.

or maybe he did it cause it made it easier for him to do all these messed up things to us.

DO YOU THINK HE PLANNED ON LIKING US?

i don't think he ever liked us.

maybe he planned on doing this the whole time.

I MEAN, WHEN HE SMILED AT US, THOSE TIMES. DO YOU THINK HE PLANNED ON THAT?

...no.

maybe that's why he did it then.

to make himself stop.

... I FEEL KIND OF SORRY FOR HIM.

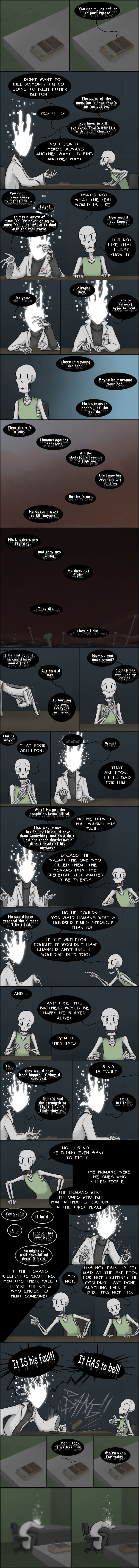
he's not worth it. don't bother.

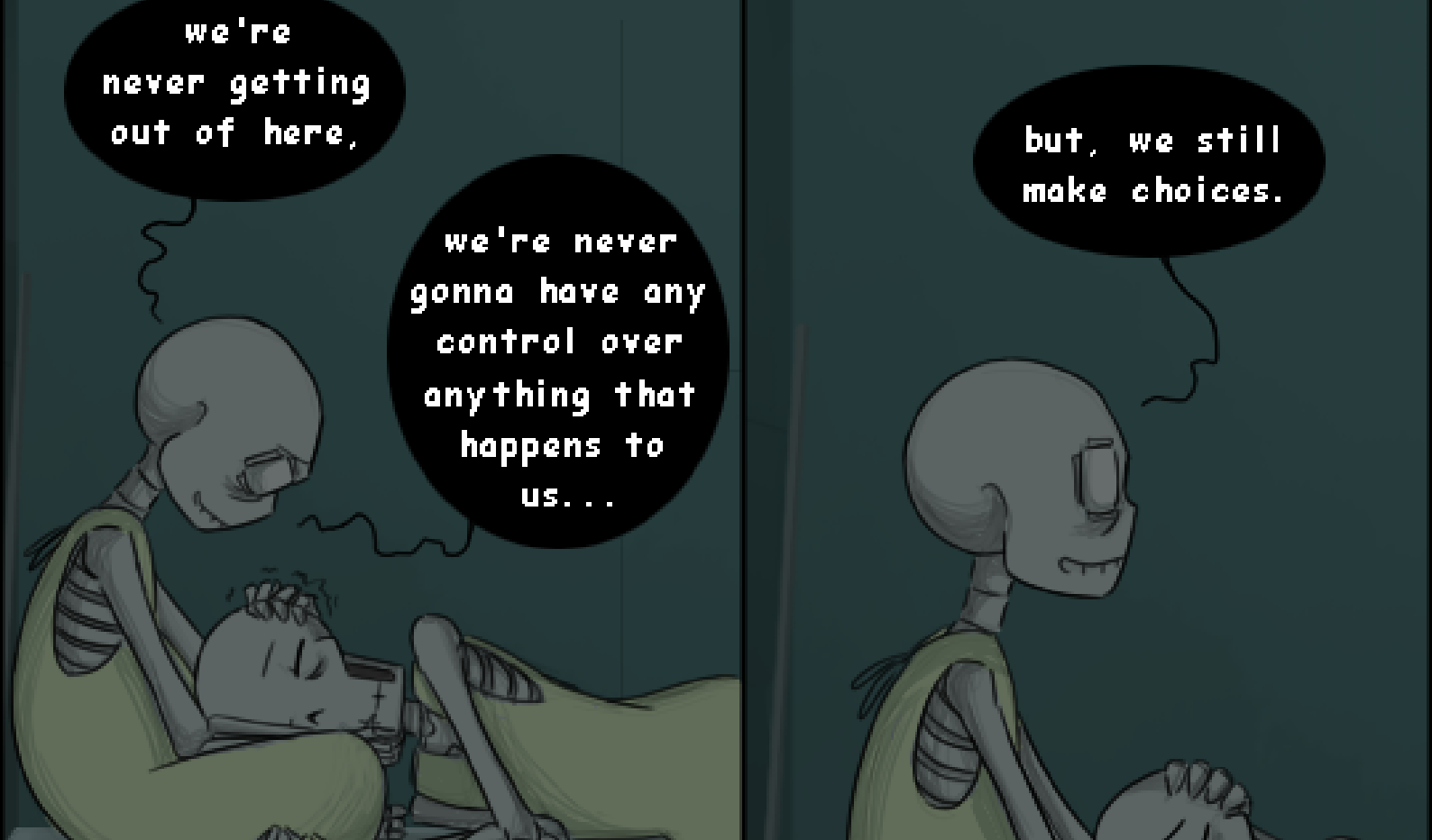
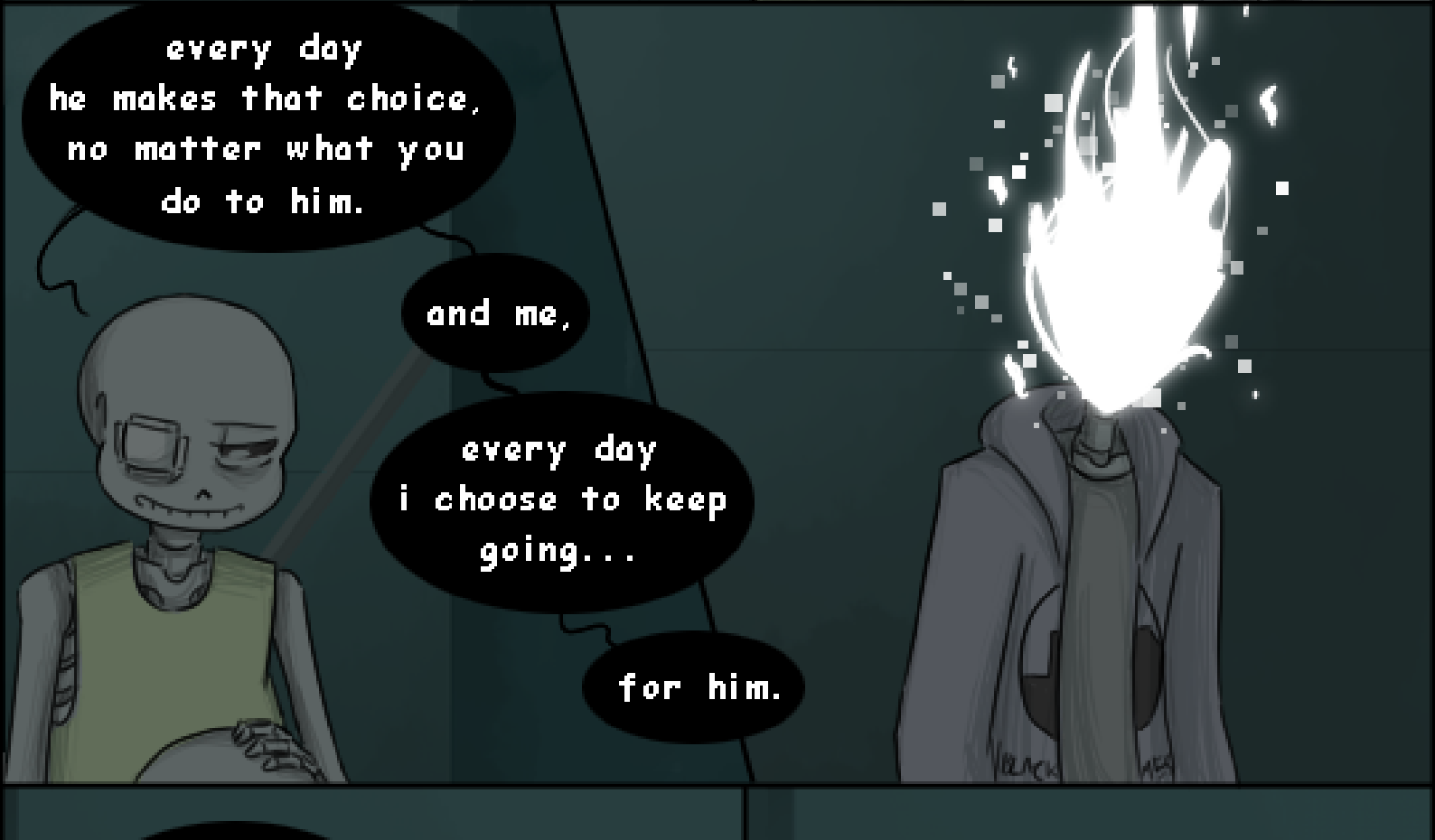
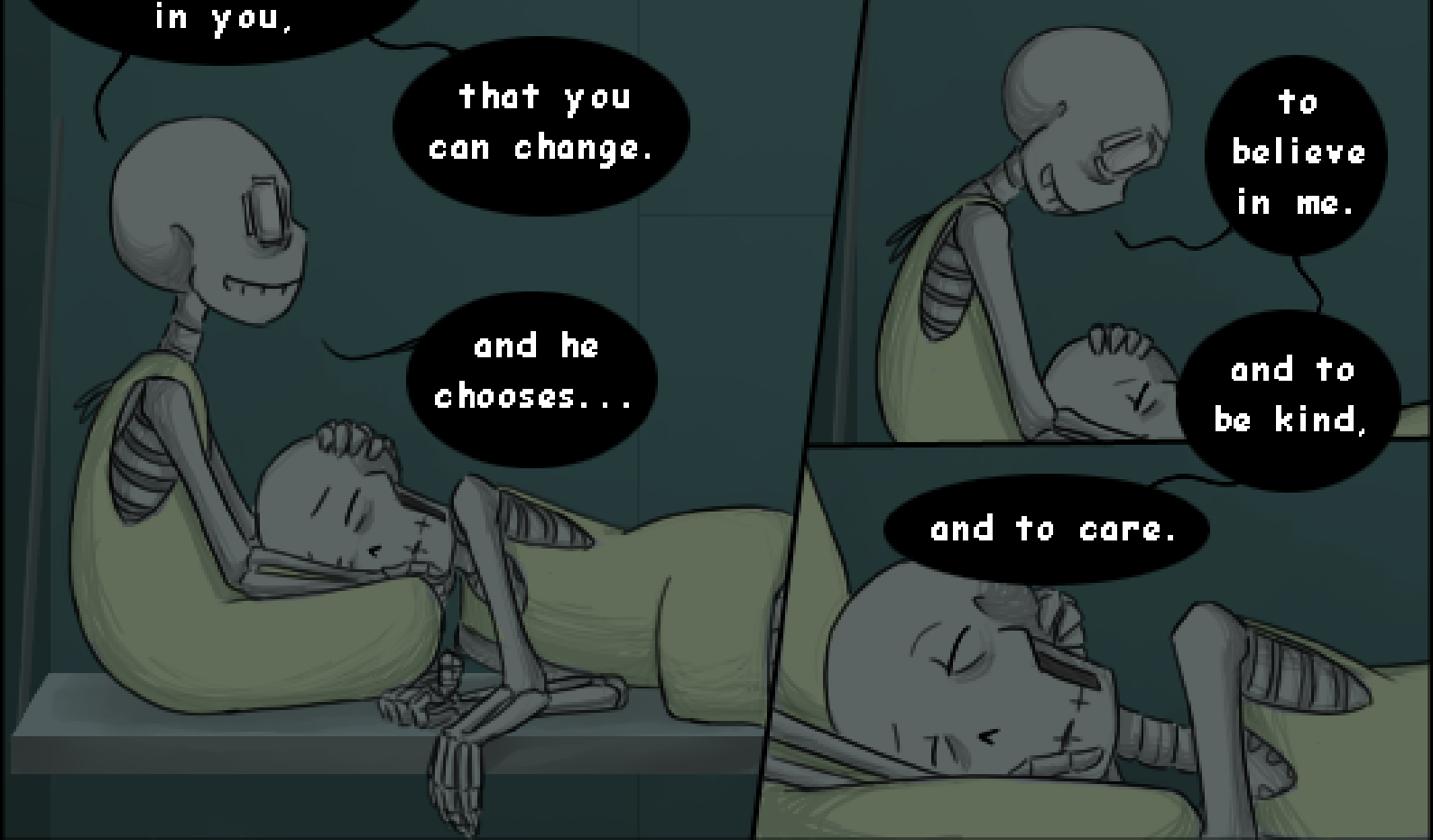
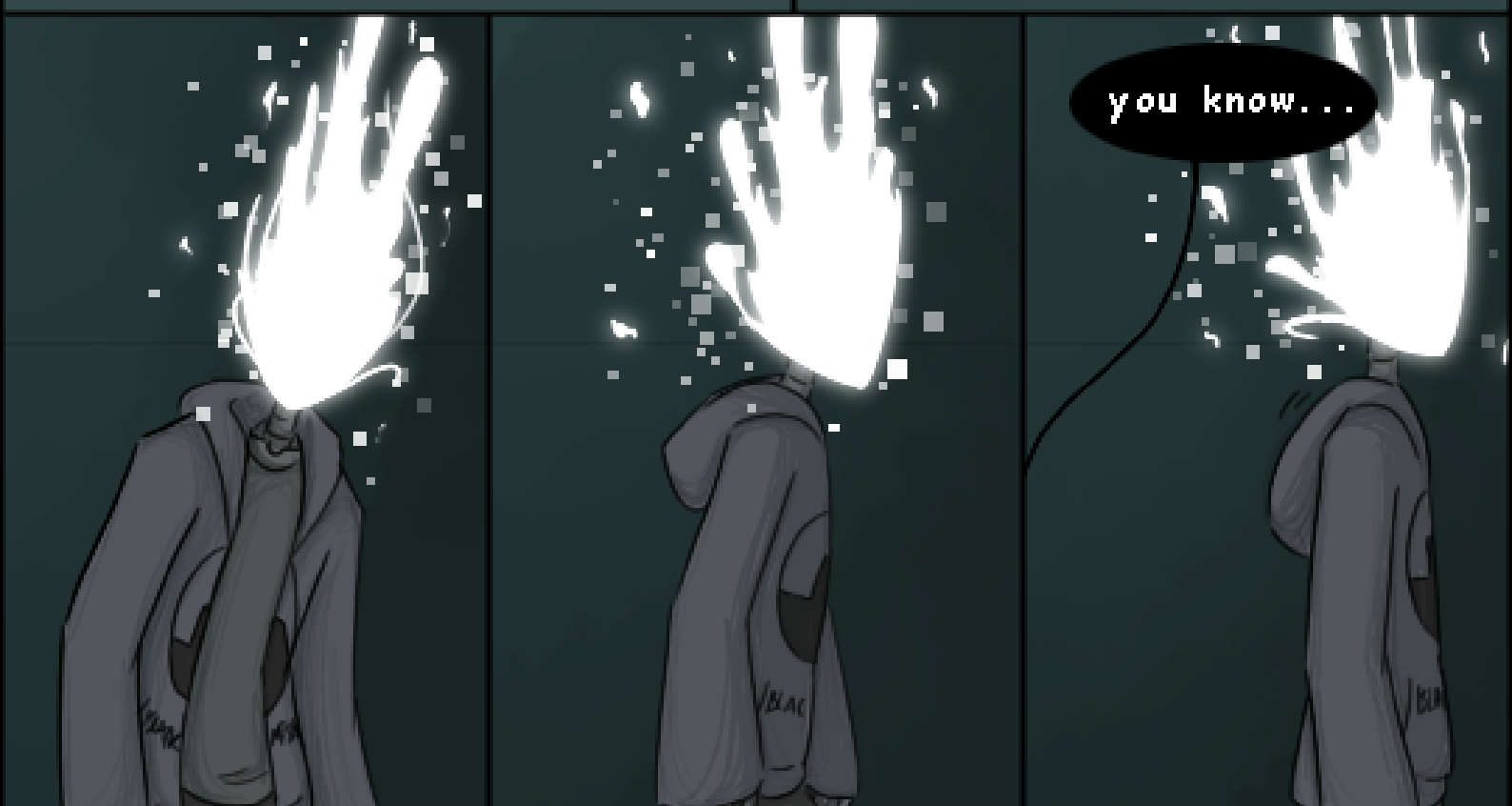
IT MUST BE HARD TO BE ALONE ALL THE TIME.

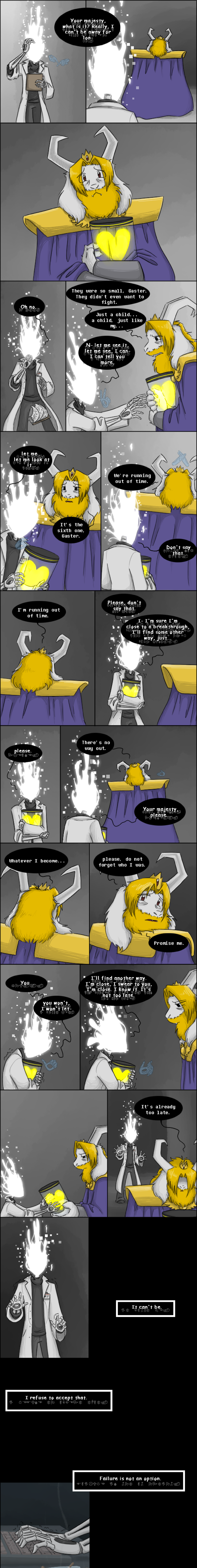
WE'VE ALWAYS GOT EACH OTHER.

BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE ANYONE.

I WONDER IF HE MISSES US.







IDF - Inter-Dimensional Fatigue

Potentially Exploitable Weak Points in the Space-Time Continuum as Indicated by Established Vision Underflow

(WARNING: LATEST TESTS POINT TO EXTREMELY DANGEROUS AND UNPREDICTABLE CONSEQUENCES FROM FURTHER RESEARCH OF THIS TOPIC. DO NOT PURSUE THIS ANY FURTHER. EXISTING INFORMATION IS PRESERVED HERE ONLY FOR HISTORICAL INTEREST.)

Several readings during the emitter/TML sessions suggest the existence of "weak points" in our perception of reality. These weakpoints, if further weakened or opened in some manner, could potentially lead to alternate points/locations in time, alternate variations on our current "Time", or other planes of existence altogether. Hypothetical ways to access and use these weakpoints in relation to the Barrier problem, as well as their current known and projected attributes, follow:

Failure is NOT an option.



Alright, the darkness is clearing. I'm getting close. It's almost decipherable.

If I can keep it at this specific frequency, then it can be translated into proper images.

WHAT IS?

what frequency?

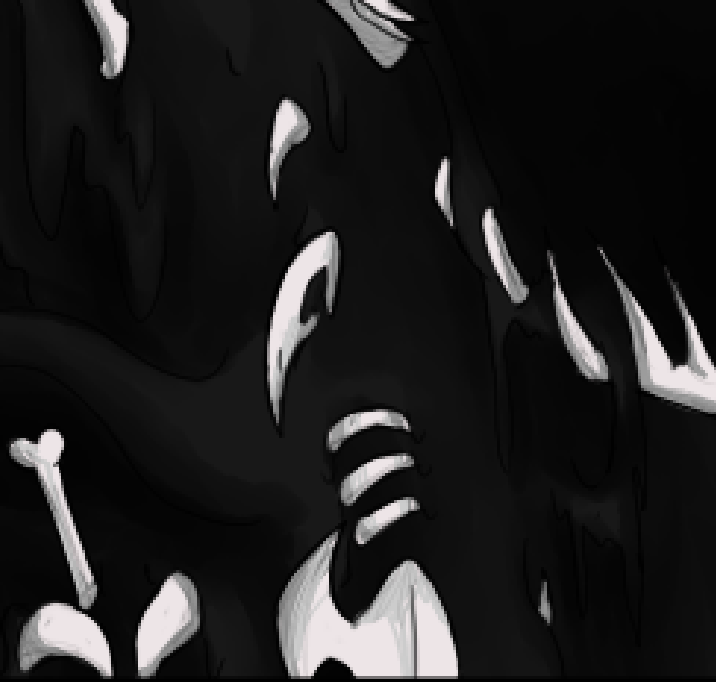
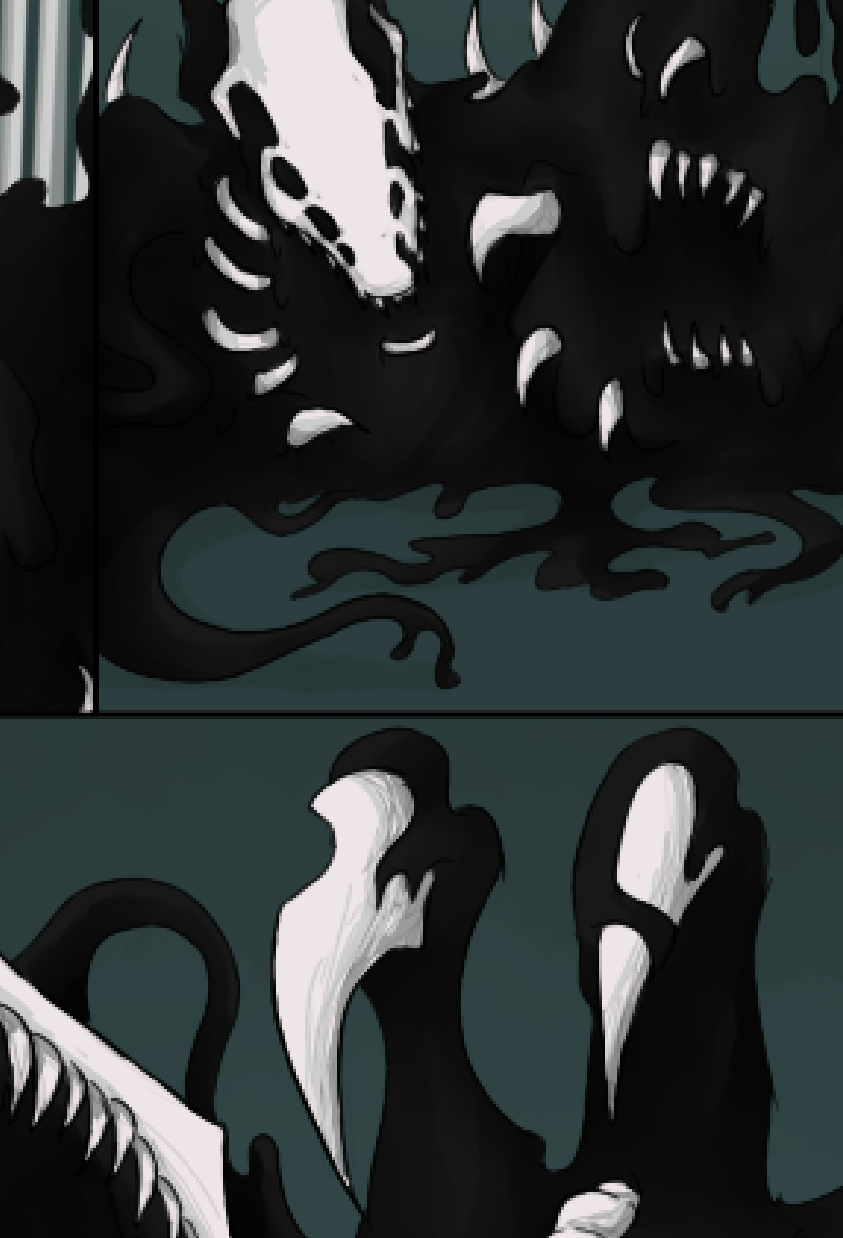
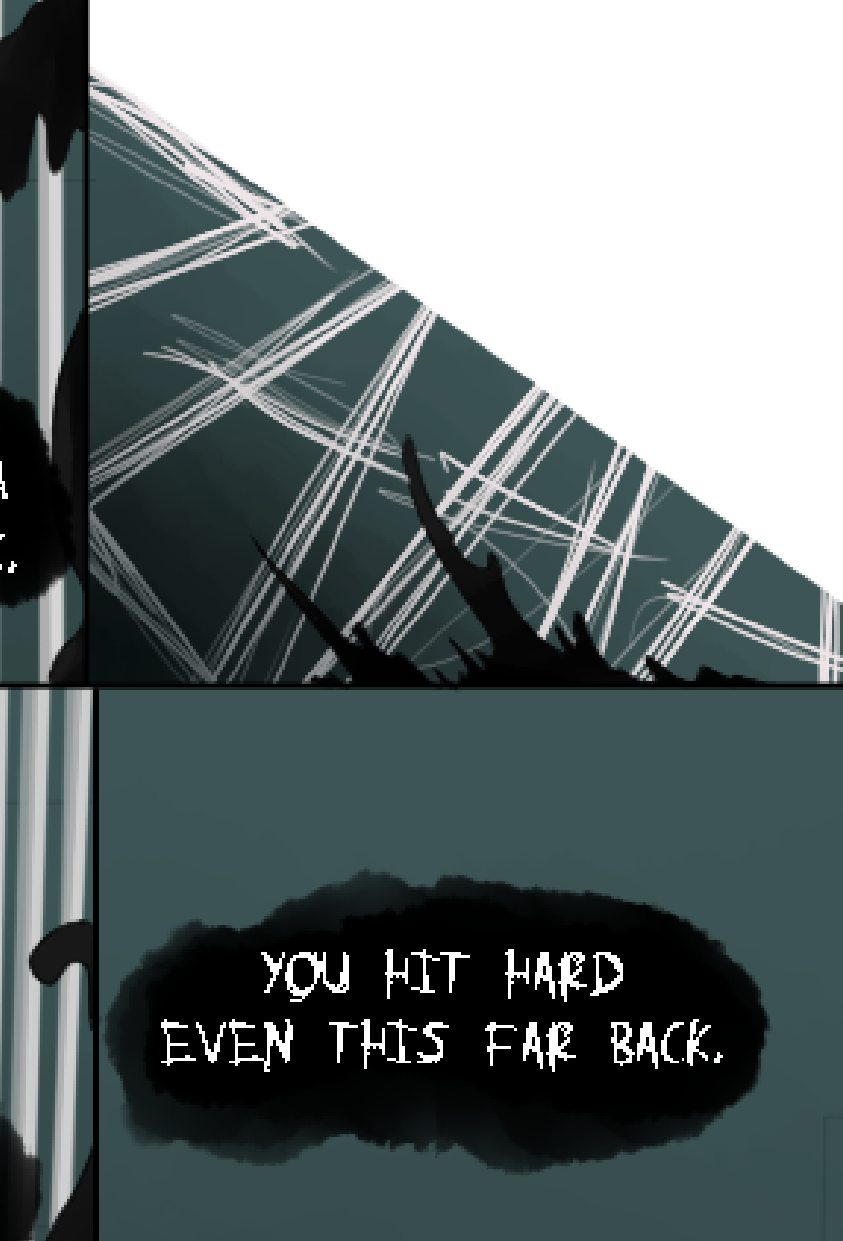
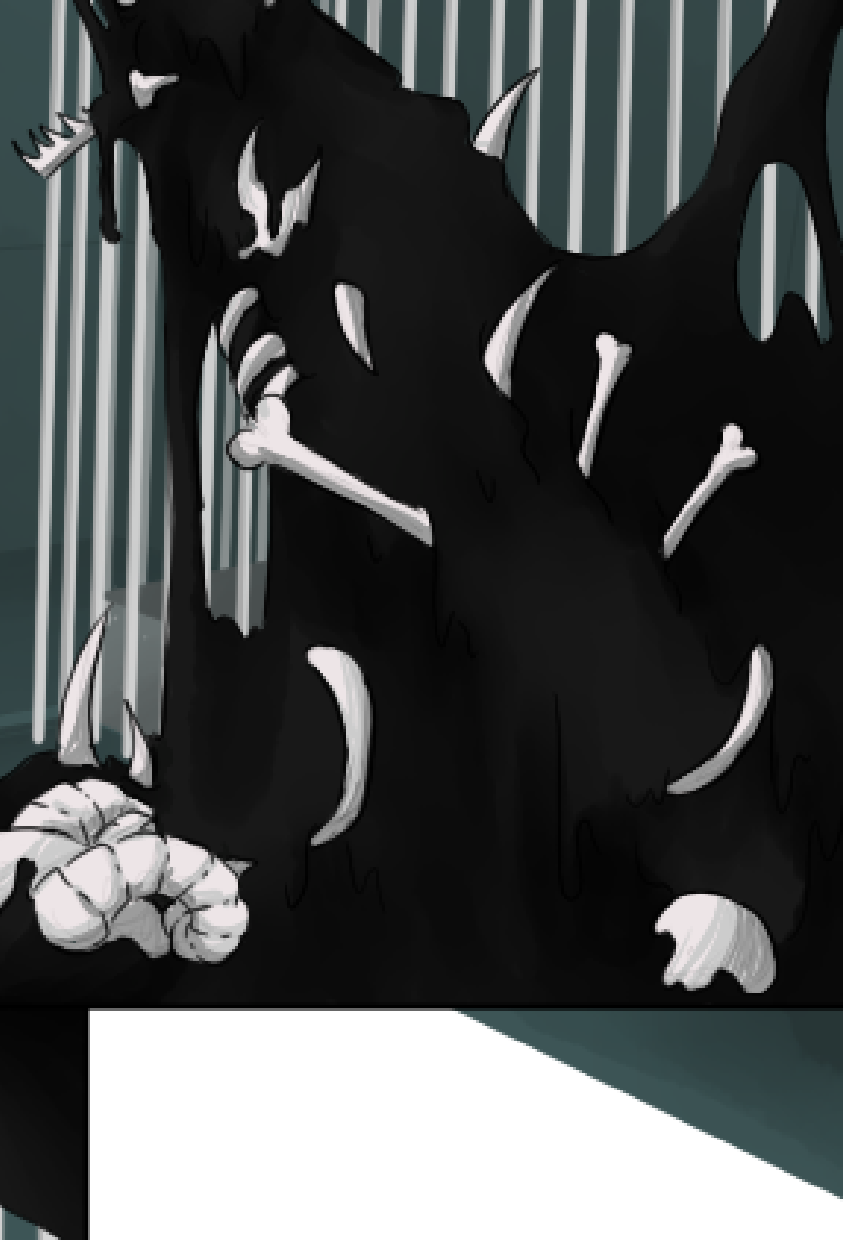
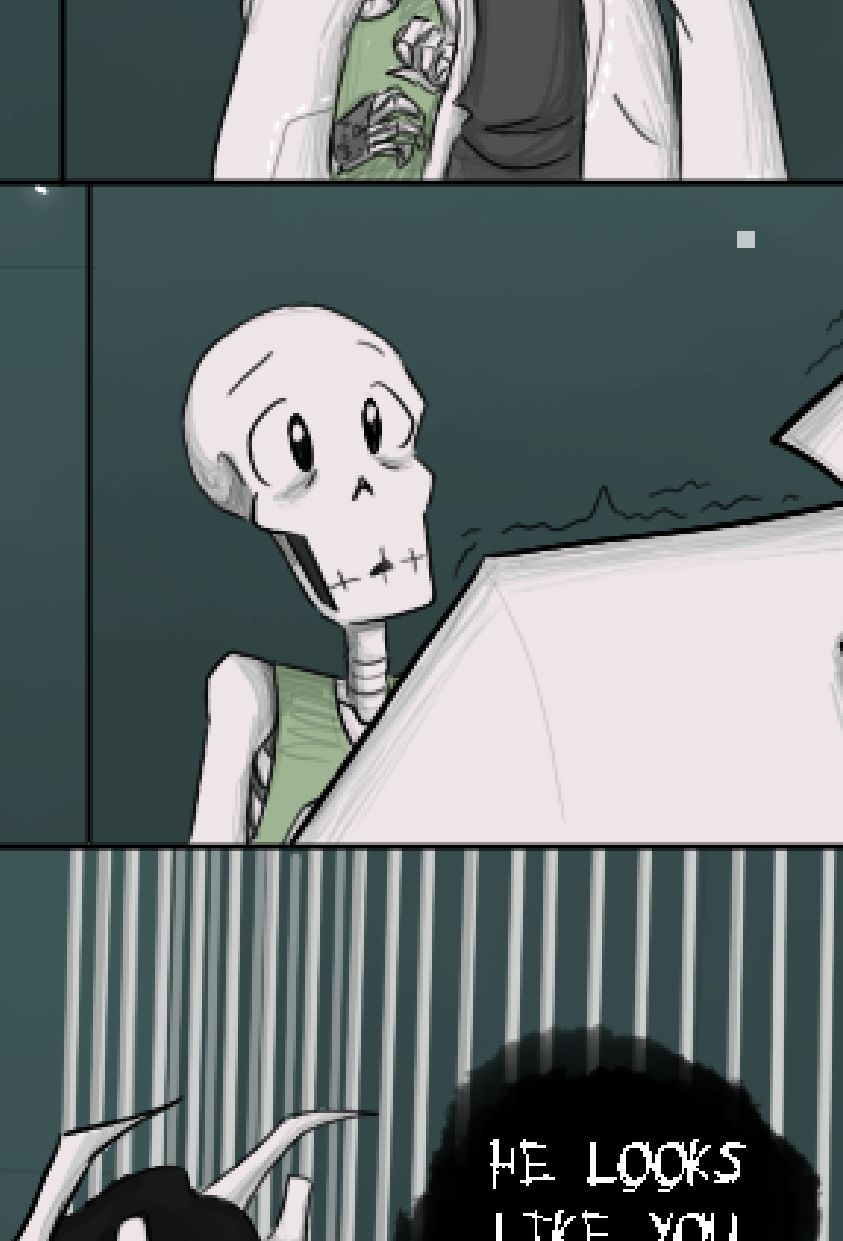
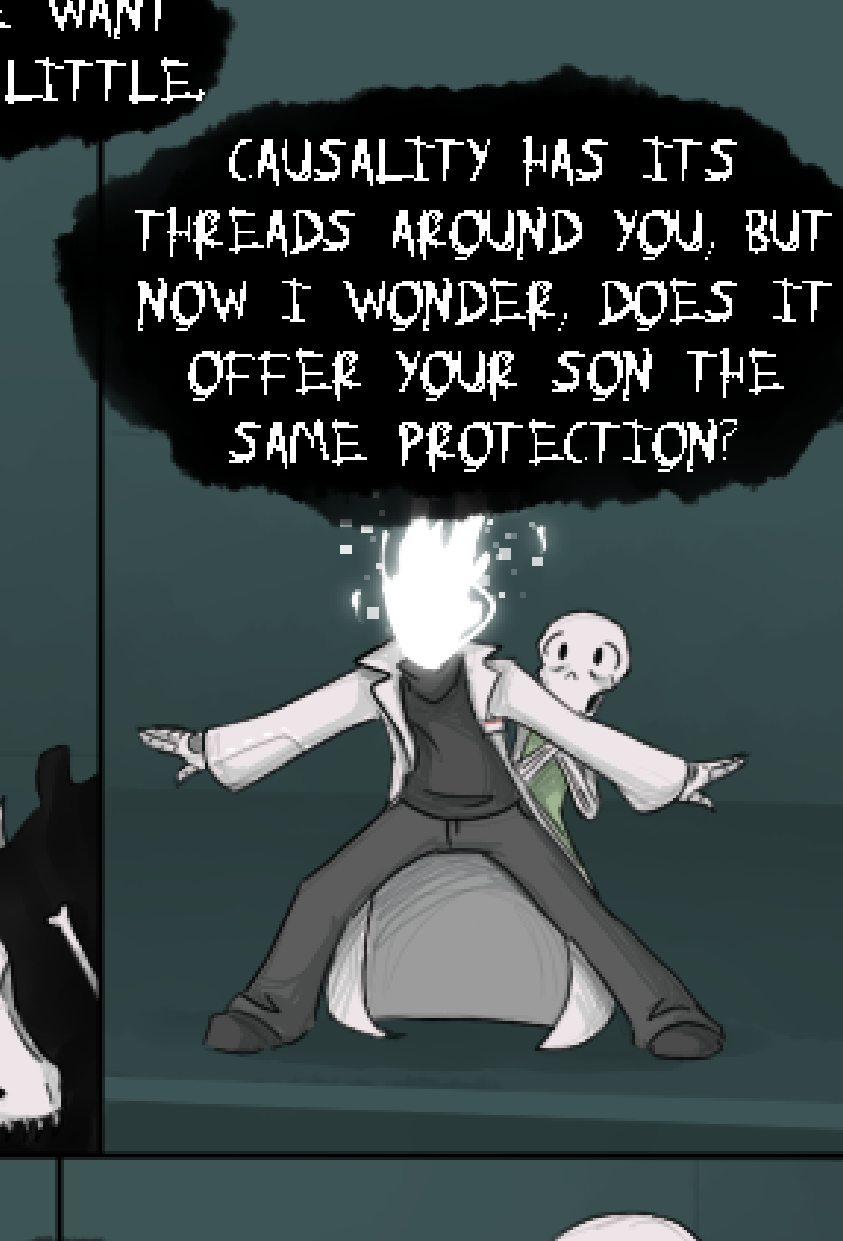
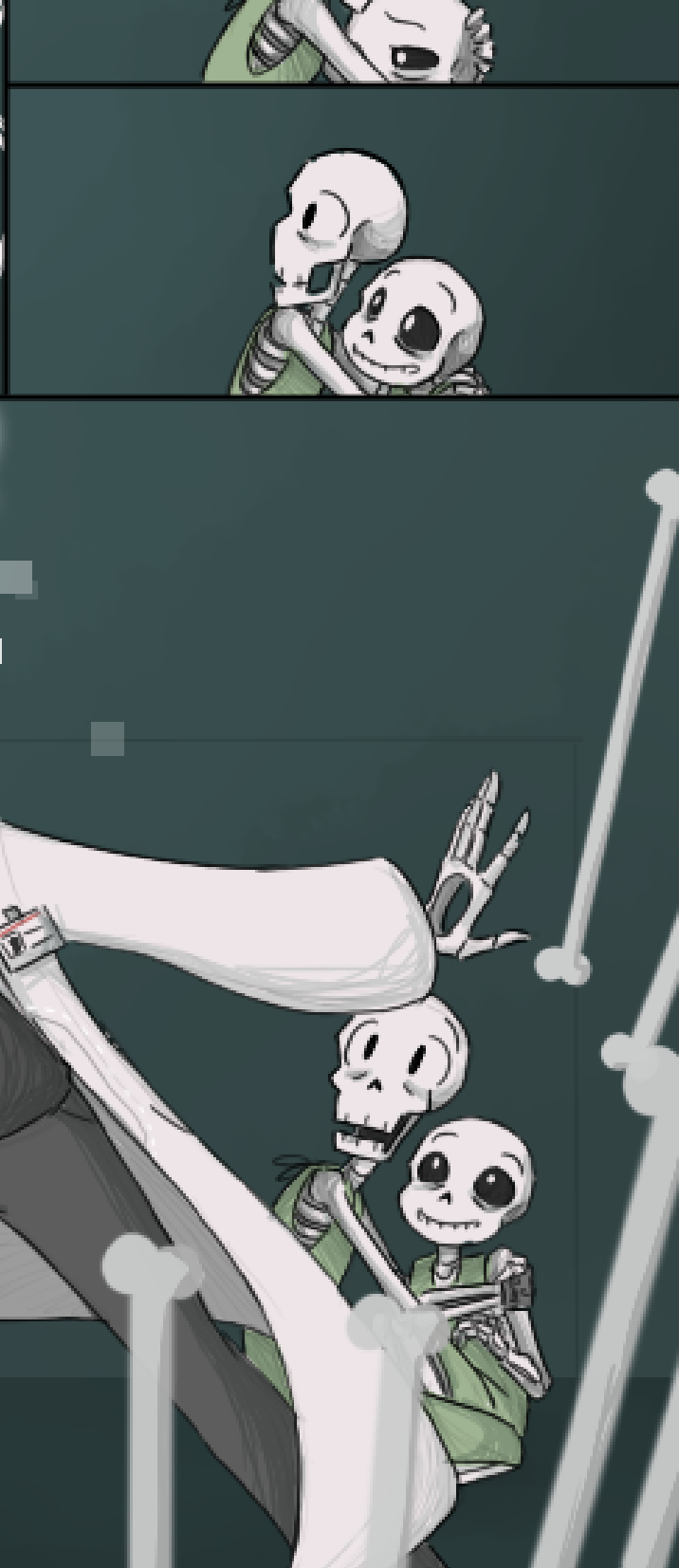
Don't distract me. Just stay focused on the dais.

what is that!?

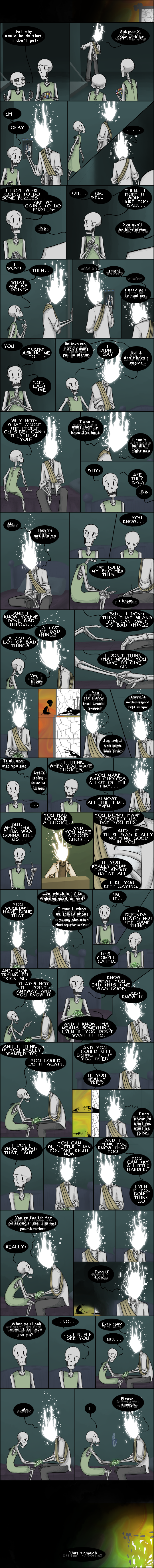
HMM...

TWO MORSELS.

LOOK OUT!







but why would he do that, i don't get-

Subject 2, come with me

uh...
OKAY.

I HOPE WE'RE DOING SOME PUZZLES... ARE WE GOING TO DO PUZZLES?

No

OH... UM, WELL... THEN, I HOPE I WON'T HURT TOO BAD...

You won't be hurt either.

I WON'T? THEN...
WHAT ARE WE DOING?

(sigh)
I need you to heal me.

YOU... YOU'RE ASKING ME TO...?

BUT, LAST TIME-

Believe me, I don't want you to either.

I DIDN'T SAY-

But I don't have a choice.

WHY NOT? WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE OUTSIDE? CAN'T THEY HEAL YOU?

...I don't want them to know I'm hurt.

I can't... handle it right now.

WHY?

ARE THEY BAD?

No

No
They're not like me.

YOU KNOW...

I'VE TOLD MY BROTHER THIS.

BUT, I DON'T THINK THAT MEANS YOU CAN ONLY DO BAD THINGS.

AND I KNOW YOU'VE DONE BAD THINGS...
A LOT A LOT OF BAD THINGS.

A LOT OF BAD THINGS.

Yes, I know

I DON'T THINK THAT MEANS YOU HAVE TO GIVE UP.

It all went into you two.

Everything else is ashes.

I THINK, WHEN YOU MAKE CHOICES,

YOU MAKE BAD CHOICES A LOT OF THE TIME...

ALMOST ALL THE TIME, EVEN...

BUT, WHEN THAT THING WAS GONNA KILL US...

YOU HAD TO MAKE A CHOICE.

AND YOU MADE A GOOD CHOICE.

YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO PROTECT US, BUT YOU DID.

AND, IF THERE WAS REALLY NOTHING GOOD IN YOU...

IF YOU REALLY DIDN'T CARE ABOUT US AT ALL

LIKE YOU KEEP SAYING,

YOU WOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT.

...So, which is it? Is fighting good, or bad?

I recall, when we talked about a young skeleton during the war.

UM, IT...

IT DEPENDS, THAT'S NOT THE SAME THING,

IT'S COMPLICATED.

AND STOP TRYING TO TRICK ME,

THAT'S NOT THE POINT ANYWAY AND YOU KNOW IT.

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID THIS TIME WAS GOOD, I JUST KNOW IT.

AND I KNOW THAT MEANS SOMETHING, EVEN IF YOU DON'T WANT IT TO.

AND I THINK, IF YOU REALLY WANTED TO,

YOU COULD DO IT AGAIN.

AND YOU COULD KEEP DOING IT, IF YOU TRIED.

IF YOU REALLY TRIED.

...I can never be what you want me to be.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, BUT...

YOU CAN BE BETTER THAN YOU ARE RIGHT NOW.

AND I THINK YOU KNOW THAT TOO.

YOU CAN TRY A LITTLE HARDER,

EVEN IF YOU DON'T THINK SO.

...You're foolish for believing in me, I'm not your brother.

REALLY?

Even if I did.

...When you look forward, can you see me?

NO...

I NEVER SEE YOU.

Even now?

NO...

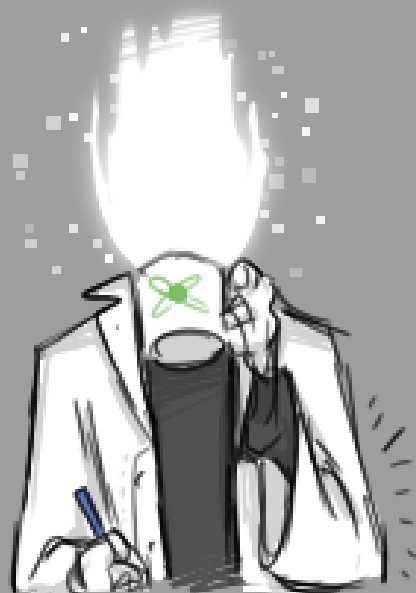
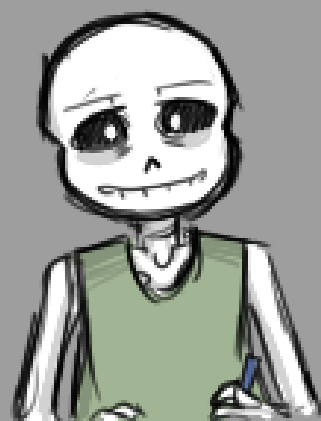
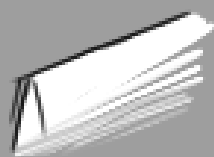
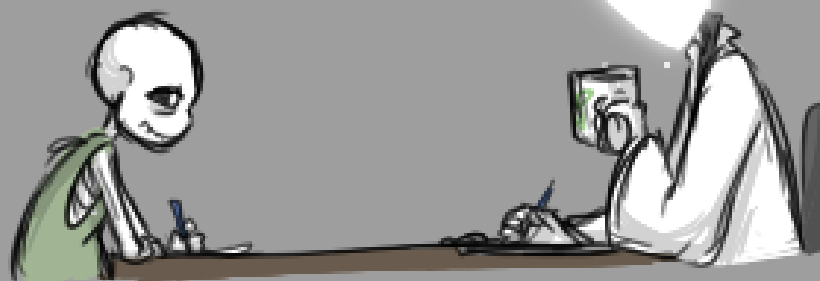
Mm

I...

Please, enough

That's enough.

Subject 1,
come with me.



Yes?
What is
it?

Yes?
What is
it?

... (sigh) ...

... nothing.



it's
nothing.



I guess everyone reaches a point where they have to make a decision... no matter how late it is.

I... we... kept hoping that maybe Dr. Gaster would talk to us about what was wrong, or tell us what he's hiding in that lab, or talk to someone even if it wasn't us, or ask us for help or come back out of his spiral himself but... he's not, he's just getting worse and...

I'm scared that if I don't do something... I might be too late.

I can't let that happen, I just can't. It already got this bad because I was too scared to try harder.

But, even so...

NO ACCESS
ONLY AUTHORIZED
PERSONNEL BEYOND
THIS POINT

D ALPHYS!
VER 0.66
waiwai!!
^ ^ Doppliator ^ ^
WDG-M.SIGNATURE
RUN

I hope he'll forgive me for this.

H-hello?

H-no, I shouldn't...

no one's in here, don't be dumb, Alphys...

O-okay...

There's g-got to be s-something here that'll explain...

Hmm...?

A force field...?

Why would he have a...

Oh!!!

A-a-are you...

s-skeletons?

Y-you look like...

like skeletons, I-I thought Gaster was the l-last one...

w-what are you doing down here?

Why are you in this... uh, h-holding area?

BROTHER, DO YOU SEE THAT? WHAT IS THAT?

yeah, i see it... is that a monster?

look, they've got a white coat like he does... they must be with him, better not get too close.

You...

oh, you speak the same language D-Dr. Gaster does, uh...

let's see, um... my s-sign language is kind of rusty...

WHERE ARE THEIR BONES?

WHY ARE THEY MOVING THEIR HANDS LIKE THAT?

uh, no idea.

Do...

do you... not know sign language?

That...

that's weird, wouldn't he have...

taught you?

Where did you c-come from? How long have you been here?

Are you his... family?

You look too old to be his ch-children, and who would he even...

are you his b-brothers? That... that doesn't make sense either, but...

what do you think they're saying? their words look weird.

I DON'T GET HOW THEIR FACE WORKS. WHAT'S THAT WIGGLY THING BEHIND THEIR TEETH?

W-why are you two down here...? There must be a reason... are you two sick?

or, you're d-dangerous for some reason, so he can't let anyone else see you.

But w-why wouldn't he tell anyone...?

ARE THEY TALKING TO US?

There's g-got to be an explanation... there must be something he's helping you with... but w-why didn't he...?

Oh, I better get out of here b-before he finds out I...

i wonder what they want, maybe they're gonna take us out and do tests on us or somethin.

OH, I HOPE NOT. I DON'T WANT ANY MORE TESTS!

uh...
bye...

oh, i guess they're leaving

THAT WAS WEIRD. I WONDER WHAT THAT WAS ABOUT?

you know, let's not tell him about this, huh? if he asks.

YOU AND YOUR SECRETS! WHY NOT?

they looked kinda scared.

YOU THINK HE'D BE MAD IF HE FOUND OUT?

yeah.

maybe they're scared of him too.

WELL...

WE DEFINITELY DON'T WANT TO MAKE HIM MAD





Let's see...

o-okay, this elevator should take us into the upper part of the Core...

then we can take the other elevator to New Home, and find Asgore...

t-this is fine, I can do this, it'll...

it's okay, it's all okay, there's...

t-there's a good explanation for all of this, there has to be.



THIS PART OF INSIDE LOOKS WEIRD. I WONDER WHY HE NEVER TOOK US HERE BEFORE?

uh...

i'm startin to think that maybe...



we're not there anymore, bro.



YOU MEAN THIS IS OUTSIDE? ARE WE OUTSIDE RIGHT NOW? OH WOW!



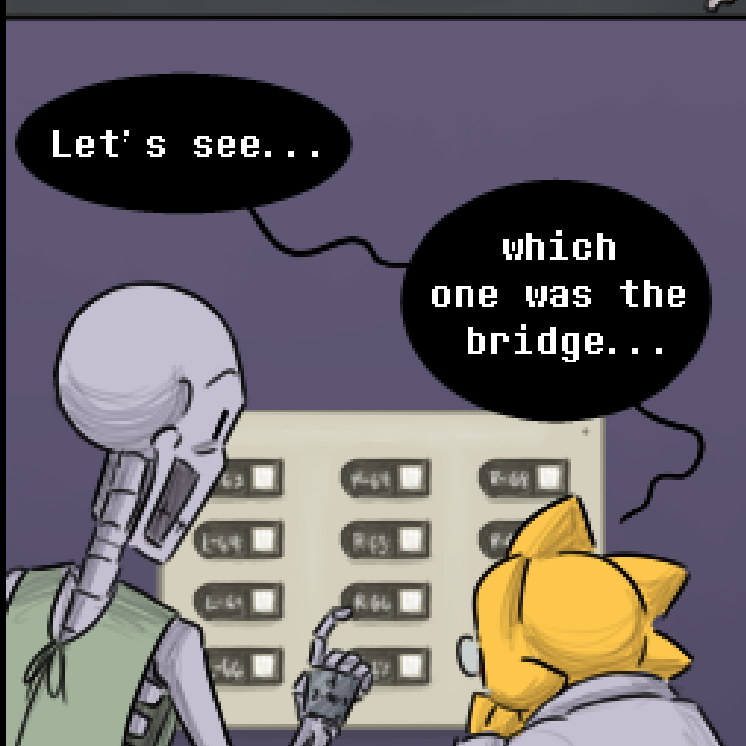
THIS ISN'T WHAT I EXPECTED AT ALL! WHERE'S ALL THE WHITE??

well, it's kinda red, i guess... i wonder what that means...



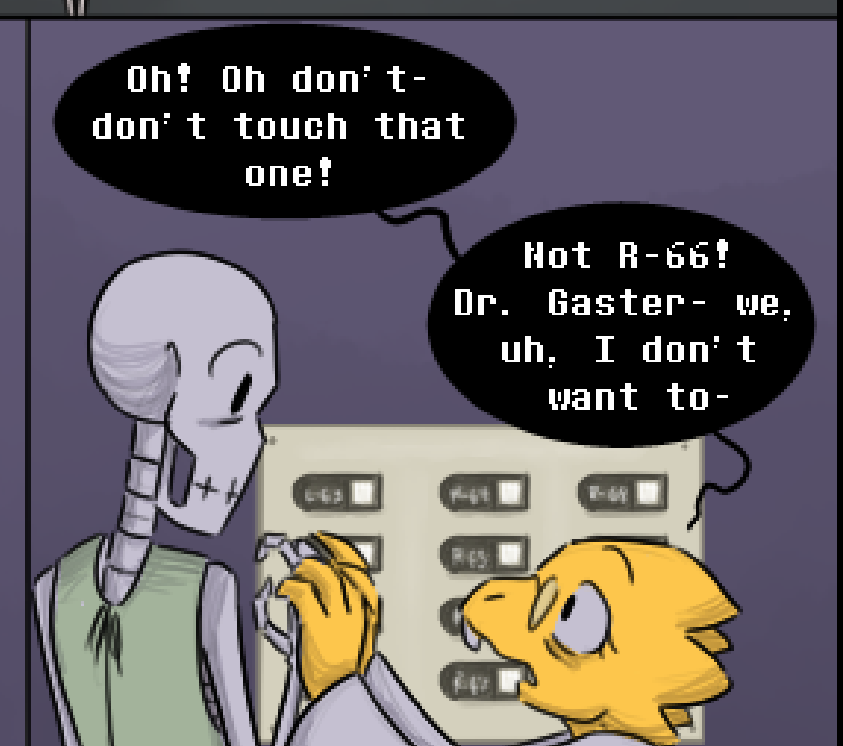
red and...

O-okay, here's the elevator... emon, emon, we don't have much time.



Let's see...

which one was the bridge...



Oh! Oh don't- don't touch that one!

Not R-66! Dr. Gaster- we, uh, I don't want to-



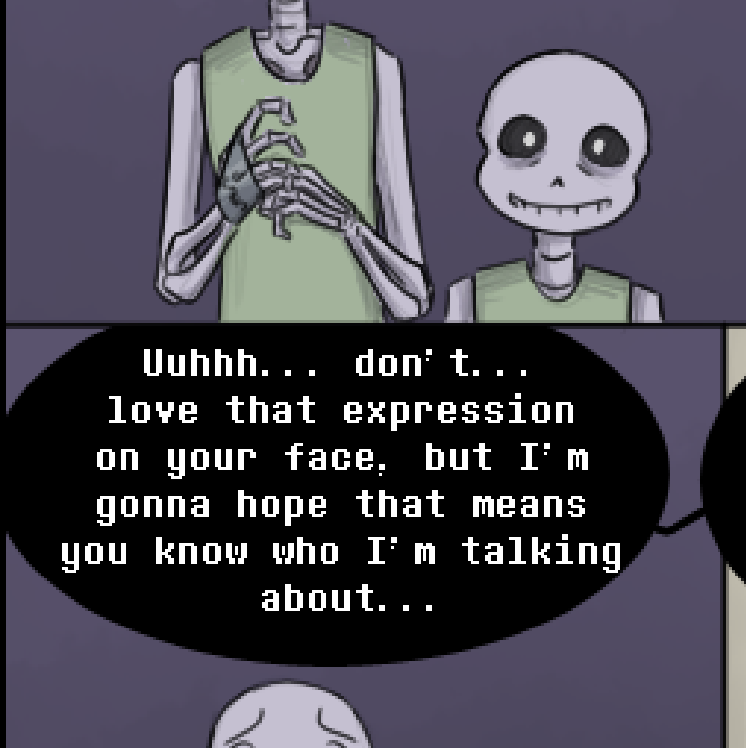
uh, I want, you to see Asgore first, before we talk to him, uh...



Jeez, you can't understand me, uh...

Dr. Gaster, Dr. Gaster, like this?

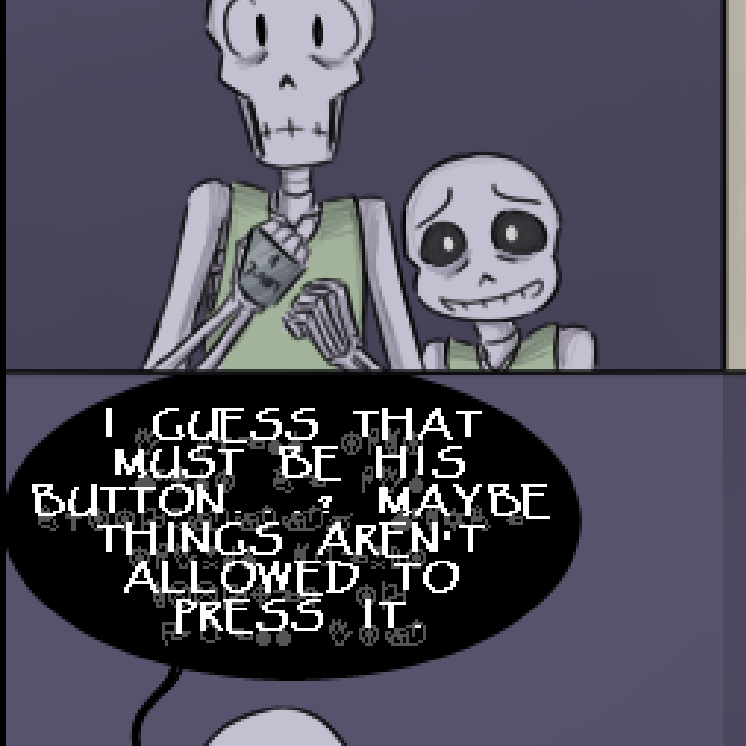
You know who I'm talking about?



Uuhhh... don't... love that expression on your face, but I'm gonna hope that means you know who I'm talking about...



b-but, he's on R-66, we're going to R-70, I'm p-pretty sure that'll take us to the other elevator...



I GUESS THAT MUST BE HIS BUTTON. MAYBE THINGS AREN'T ALLOWED TO PRESS IT.

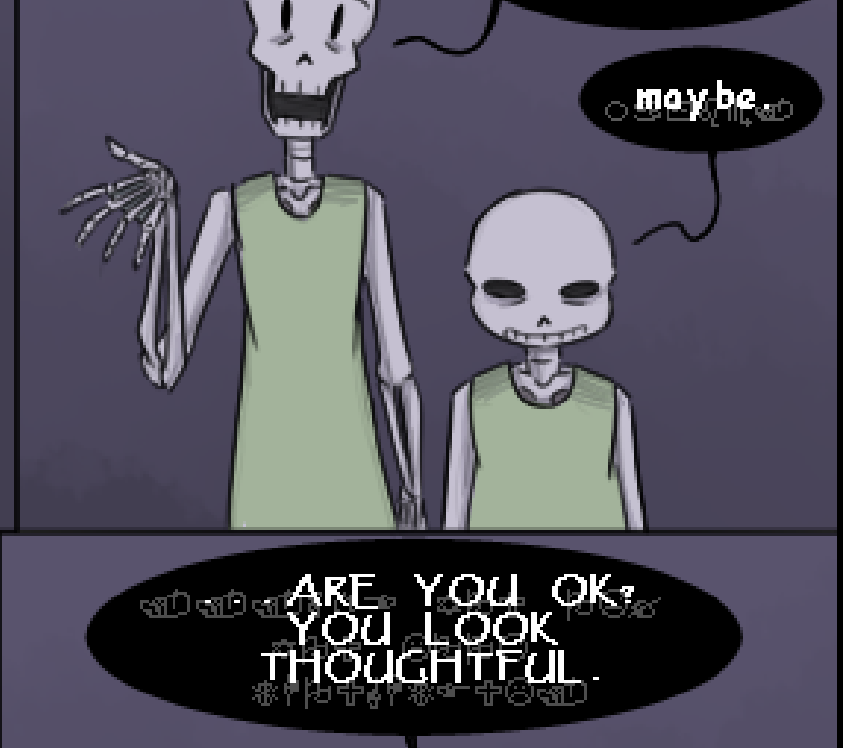
uh huh.



THEY KNOW HIM THOUGH, SO THEY MUST WORK WITH HIM.

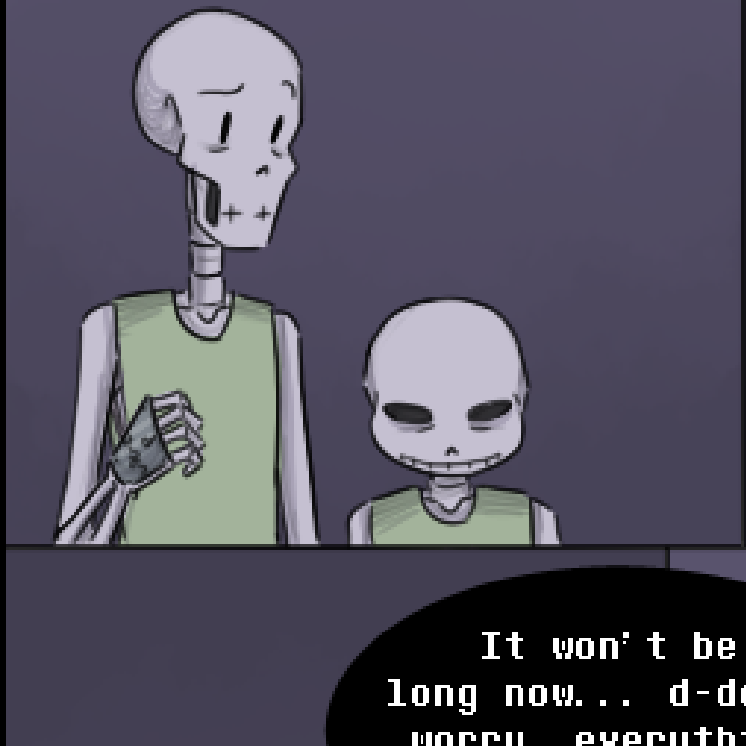
I WONDER WHY WE NEVER SAW THEM BEFORE?

maybe.

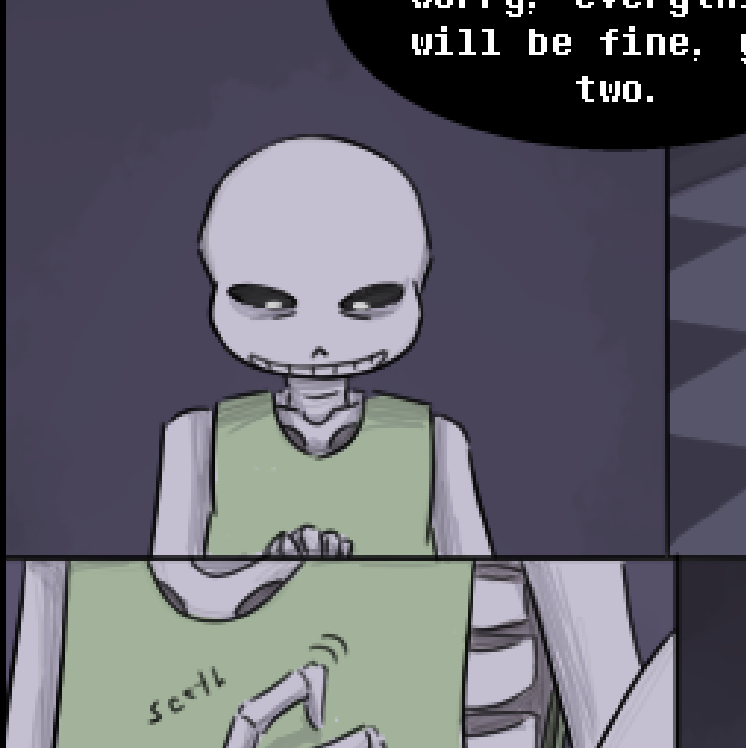
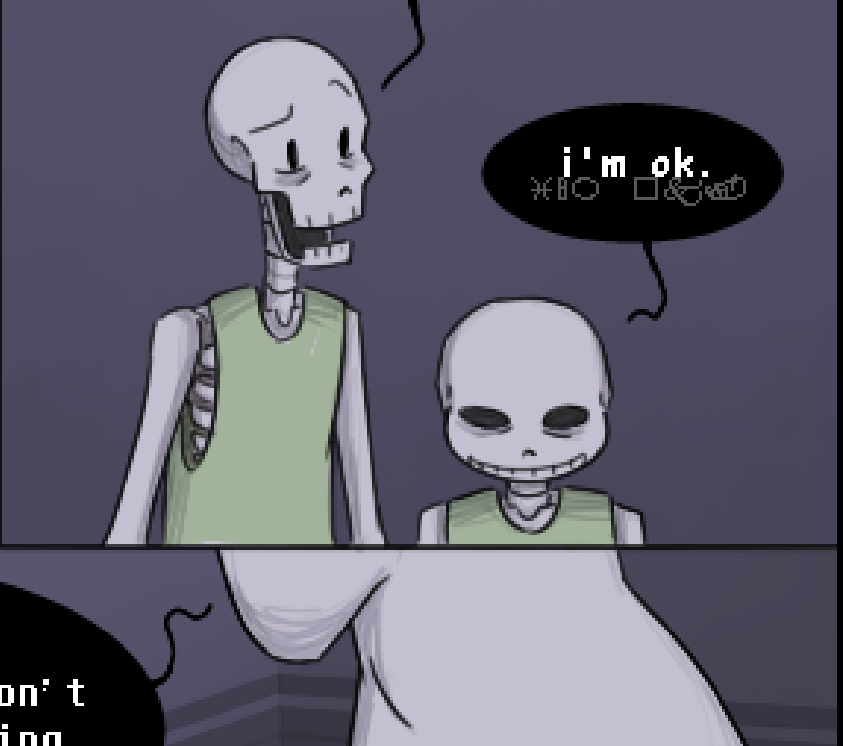


ARE YOU OK? YOU LOOK THOUGHTFUL.

i'm ok.



It won't be long now... d-don't worry, everything will be fine, you two.

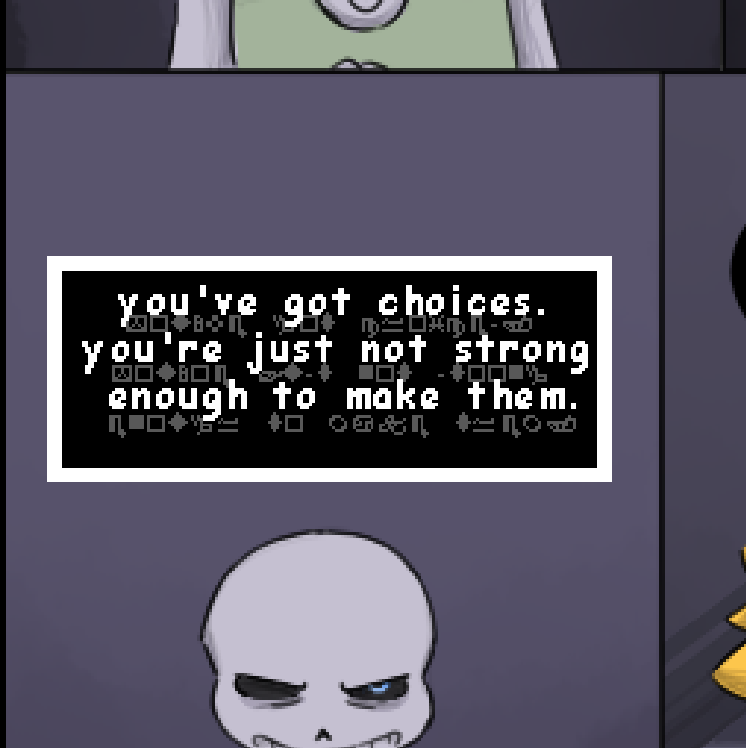
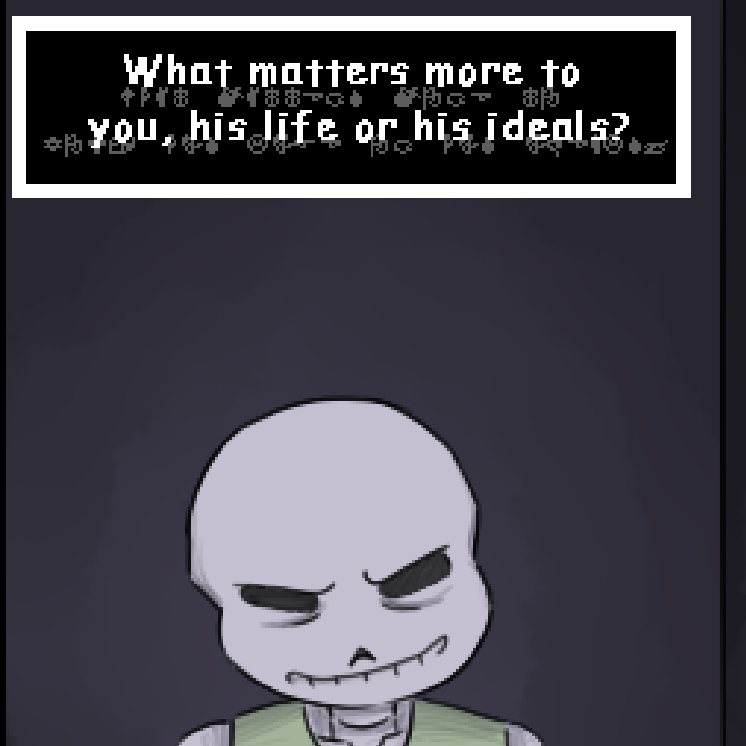


I will always find you, no matter how far you run, and no matter where you hide.



What matters more to you, his life or his ideals?

You must know by now that you're the expendable one.



you've got choices. you're just not strong enough to make them.



Alright, this should be it...

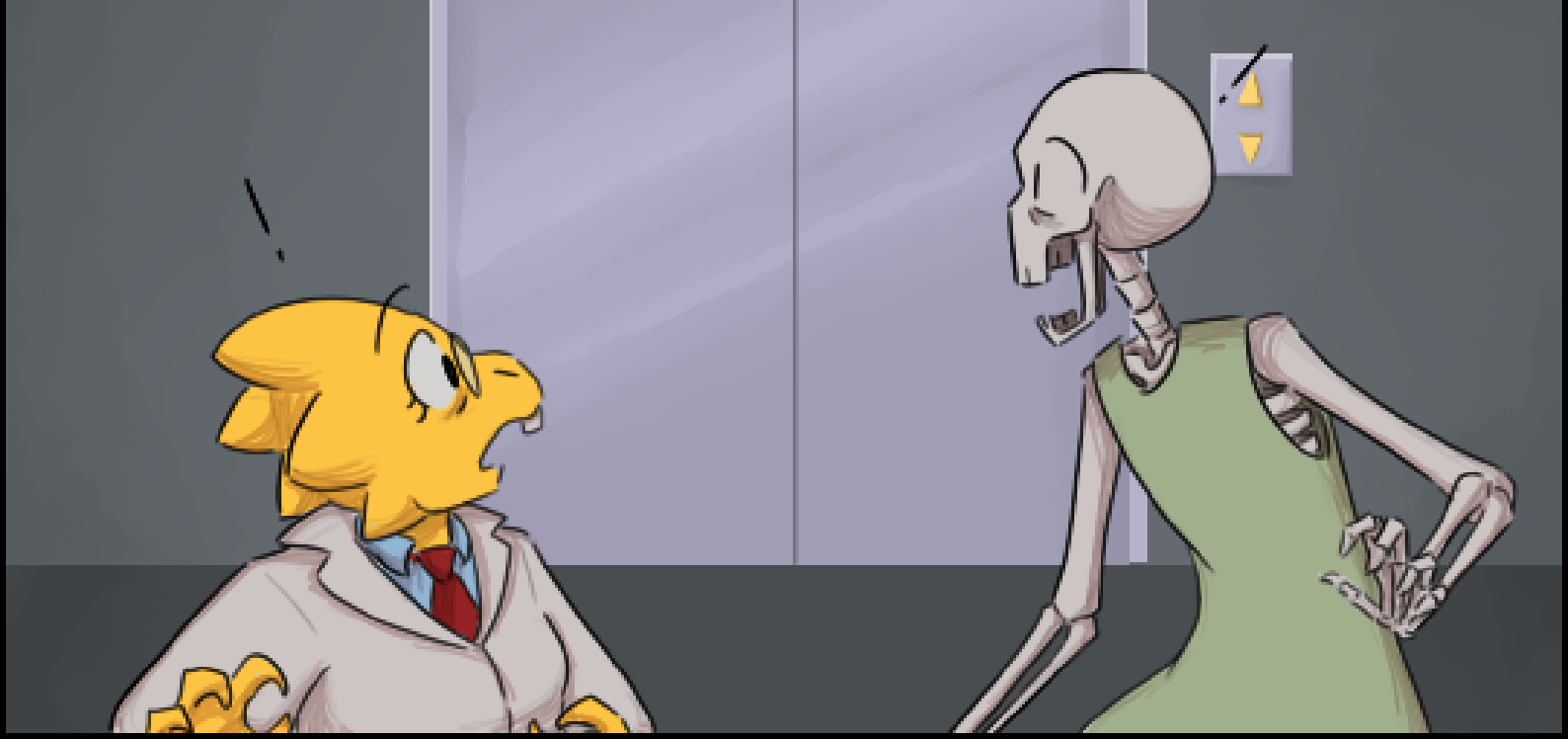
come on...



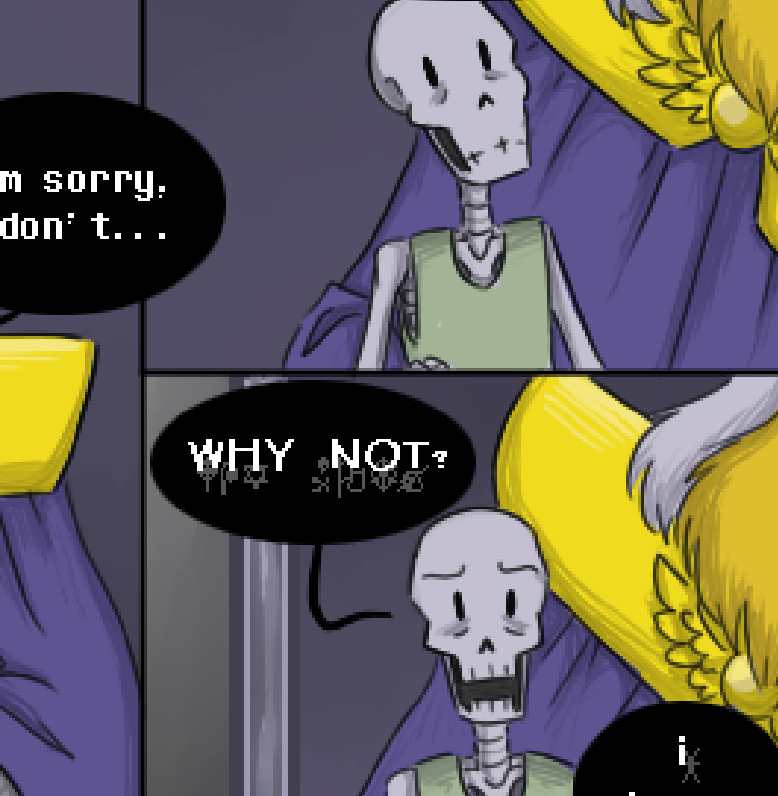
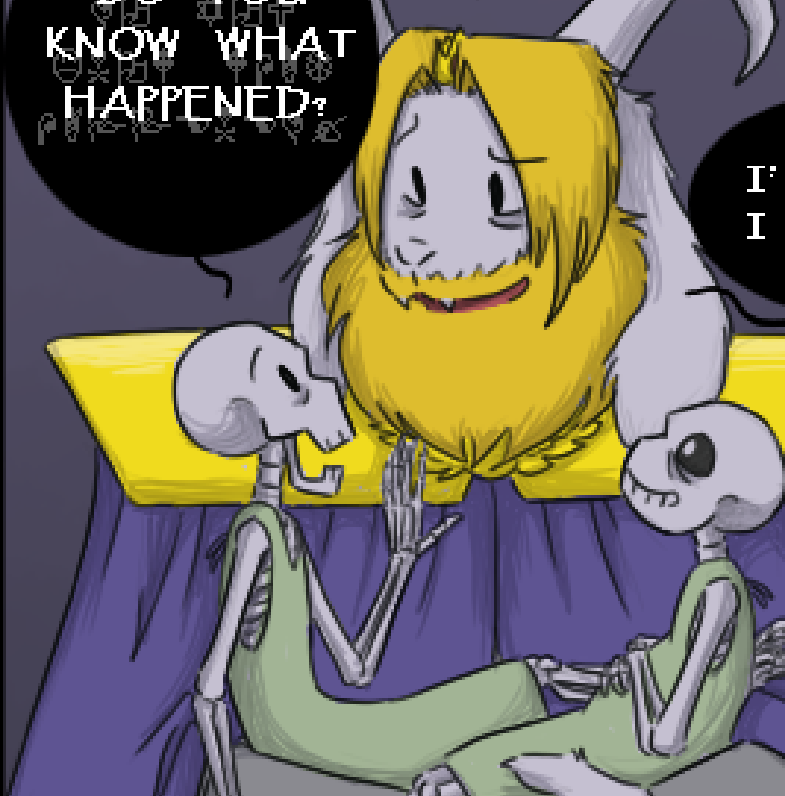
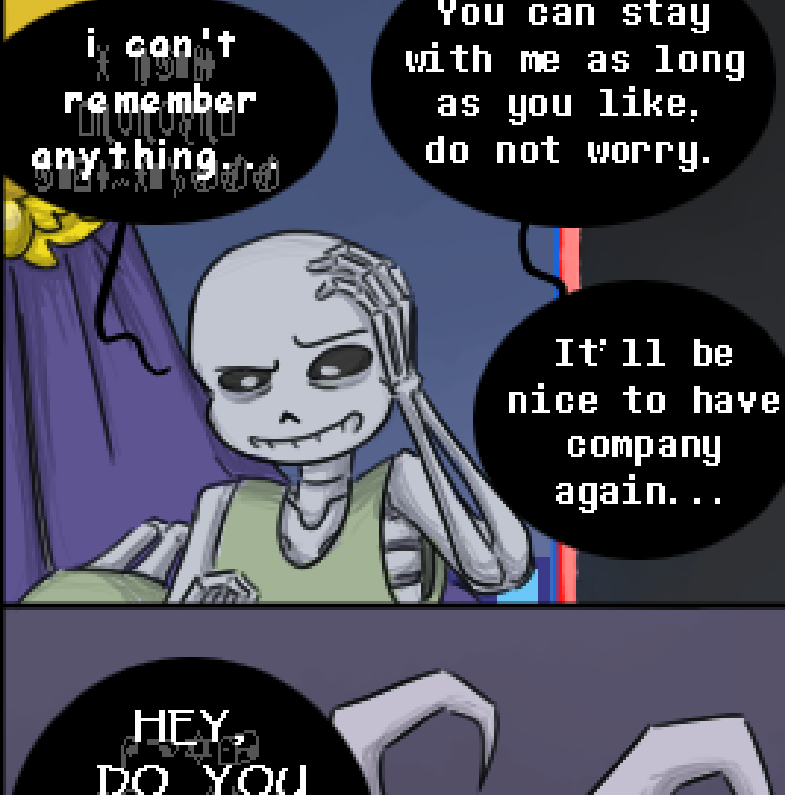
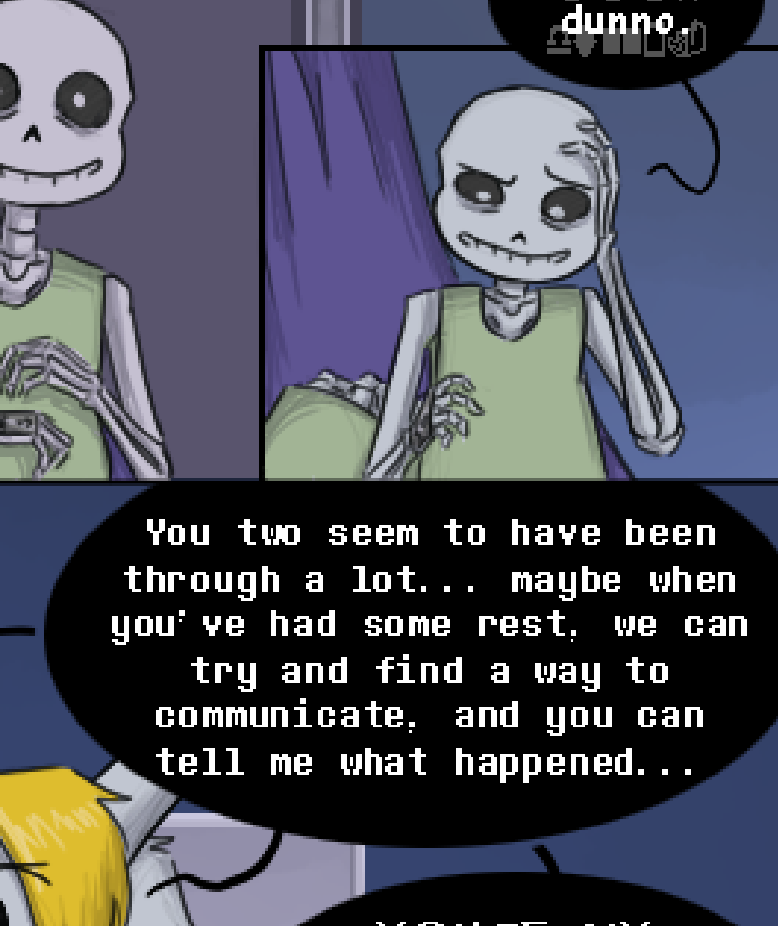
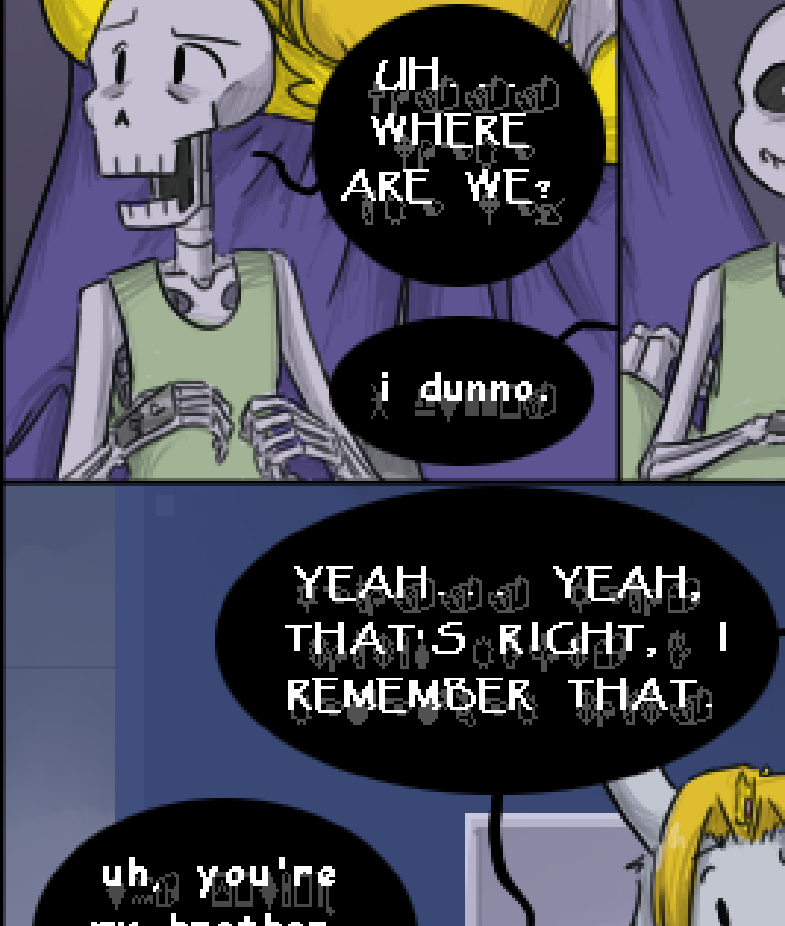
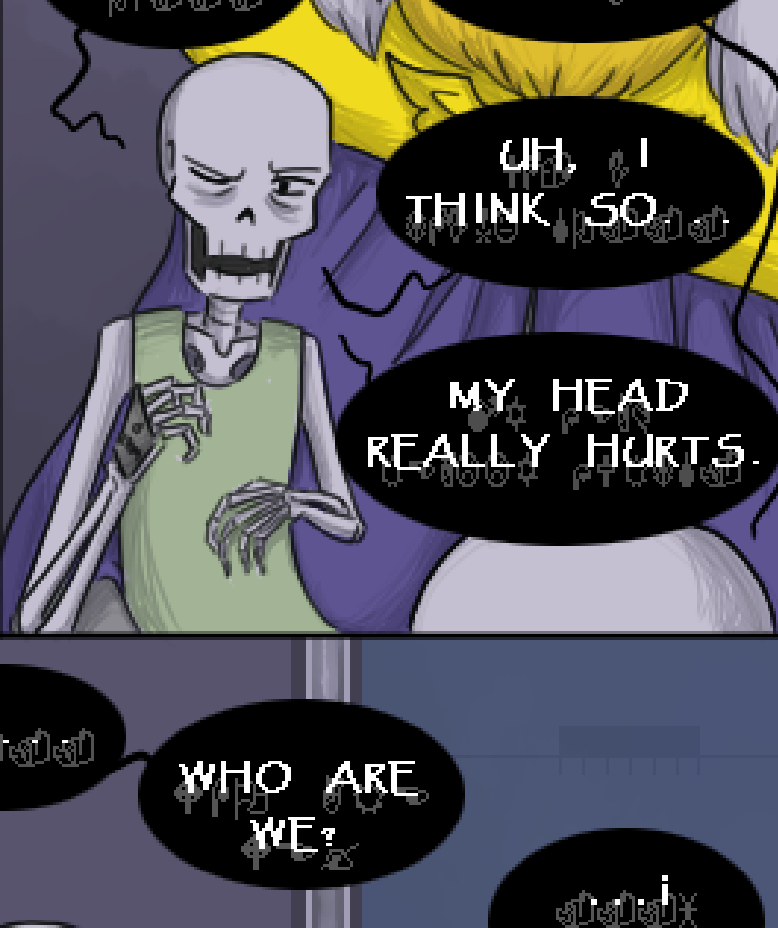
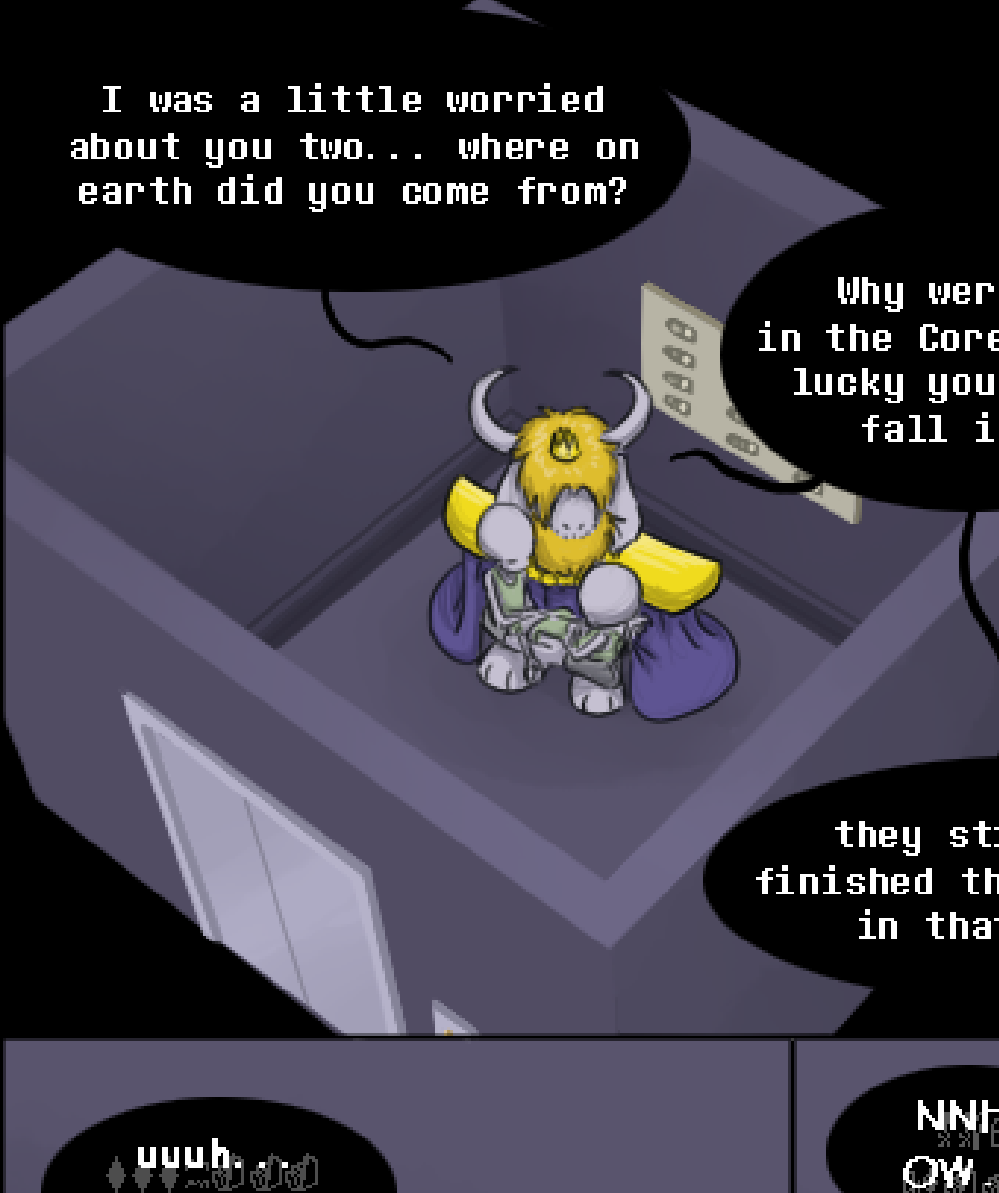
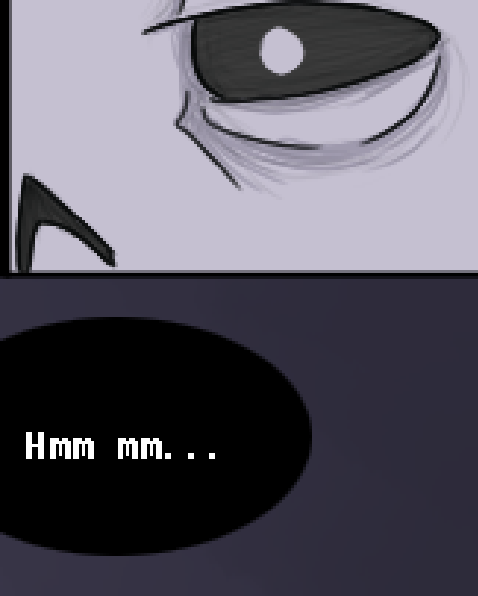
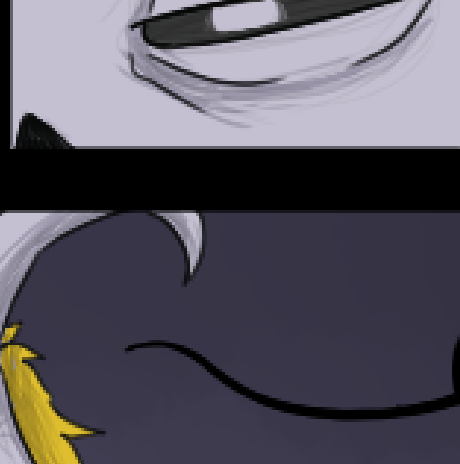
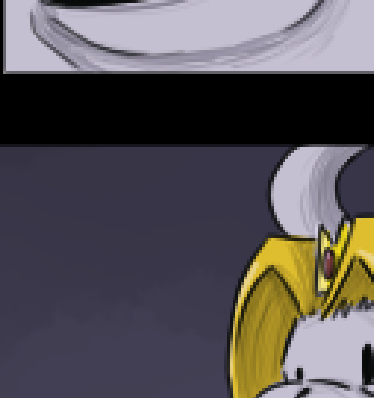
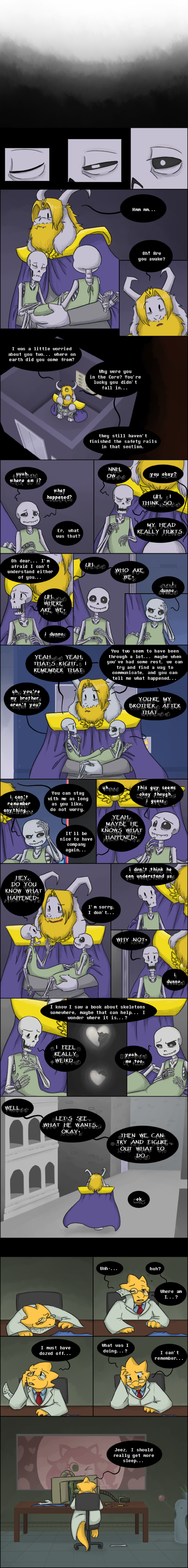
OH, WE'RE SOMEWHERE ELSE!

MAYBE THE BUTTONS ARE MAGIC?

WEIRD.









Here we are, little ones. You can stay here as long as you like.

...Um...

feel free to explore...

Or, um...

well, maybe some fresh clothes will make you feel more at home. Come with me...

Come on, don't just stand there, go through.

Let's see...

Yes, just as I thought,

you're just about the same size...

I'm afraid it'll be a little small on you though, er...

I don't suppose you understand "name"?

My name is "Asgore".

"As-gore".

AS-

GORE?

AS-

GORE?

No-

AS-

GORE?

as-

gore

Er, no... well, let's work on that later, alright? Here, you can put these on for now.

Er...

Do you... not know what clothes are...?

That's... hmm.

Well, I can help you, if you will allow it...

Is that alright? How to ask...

... HMMMMM ...

Alright, hold your arms up, little one...

Yes, like that. There you go.

Now stick your legs here...

Yes, good. Not so hard, is it?

OH, YOU LOOK DIFFERENT!

they feel weird.

IS IT BAD?

no, it's just different.

I WANT SOME TOO!

oh i'll help do what i did, okay?

There you go... you two do learn fast, don't you? I'll hang onto these for you...

... Hmm.

May I see your hand...?

Yes, that one, it will only be a moment...

W D G...? Strange... I wonder what it stands for...

P. is that your nickname? That must be short for something... I've never seen something like this before.

I really need to find that book...

CIPHERS

While most skeletons speak in fonts that are understandable to other monsters, there are unique fonts that are limited only to our race. Other monsters cannot speak them or understand them - I will refer to these fonts as Ciphers. Skeletons born speaking a Cipher are rare, but not unheard of. They are more common among Royal/Boss bloodlines and are a sign of high intelligence and great potential in this author's opinion. It is nearly impossible for a skeleton born speaking a Cipher to learn to speak in a more "common" font; this is not the case in reverse, however. Ciphers may be used at times for subterfuge, but experienced and worldly skeletons can determine someone's true font through a Cipher with focus and determination. Many Ciphers are one-to-one substitutions for common fonts... an A in a Cipher is usually still an A. Sign Language was the de facto standard in the Skeleton Kingdom for communication with other monsters when a Cipher was involved, since other monsters cannot see spoken words like we can, but when in dire straits, one may use a key to try and translate a written message. This is considered somewhat rude, however.

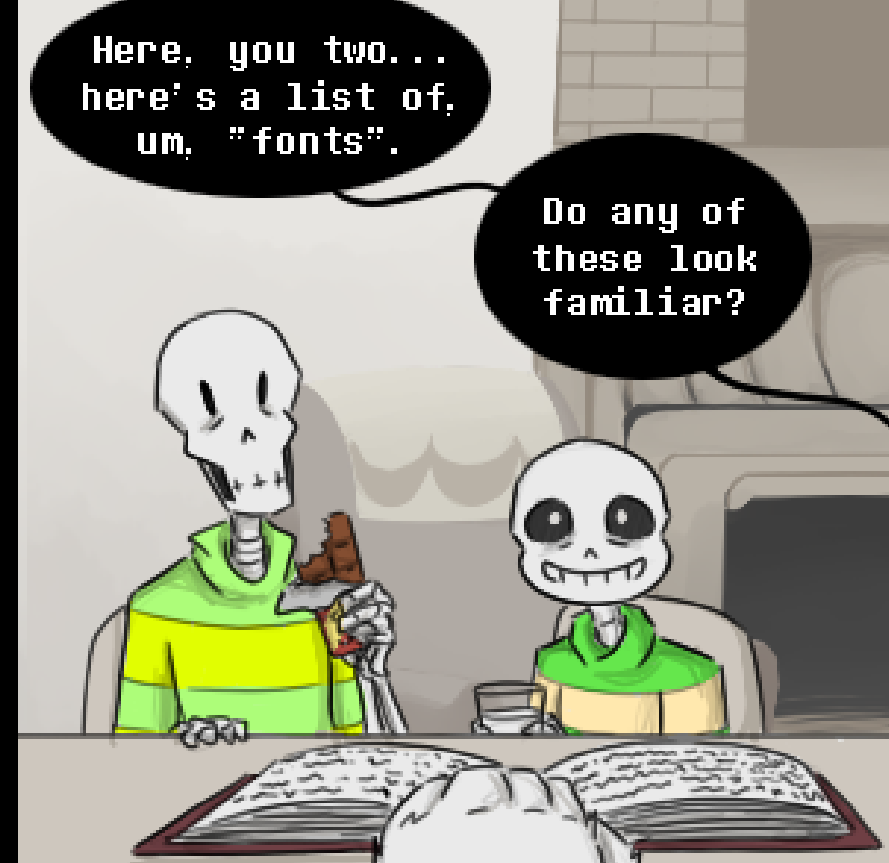


Many Ciphers are one-to-one substitutions for common fonts... an A in a Cipher is usually still an A. Sign Language was the de facto standard in the Skeleton Kingdom for communication with other monsters when a Cipher was involved, since other monsters cannot see spoken words like we can, but when in dire straits, one may use a key to try and translate a written message. This is considered somewhat rude, however.

KNOWN CIPHERS:
Wingdings
Webdings
Dingbats
Miskatonic
Runes of the Dragon
Arboris Folium



Hopefully they don't naturally speak in a cipher... otherwise I'll just have to teach them sign language.

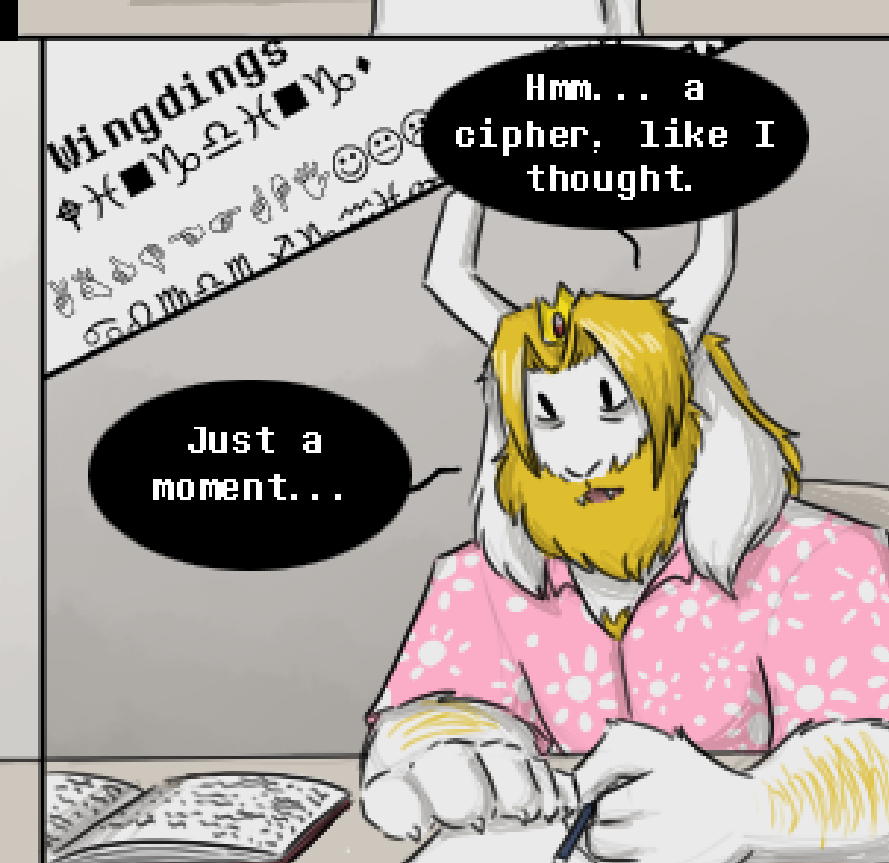


Here, you two... here's a list of, um, "fonts".

Do any of these look familiar?



OH! LOOK! IT'S THE ALPHABET!

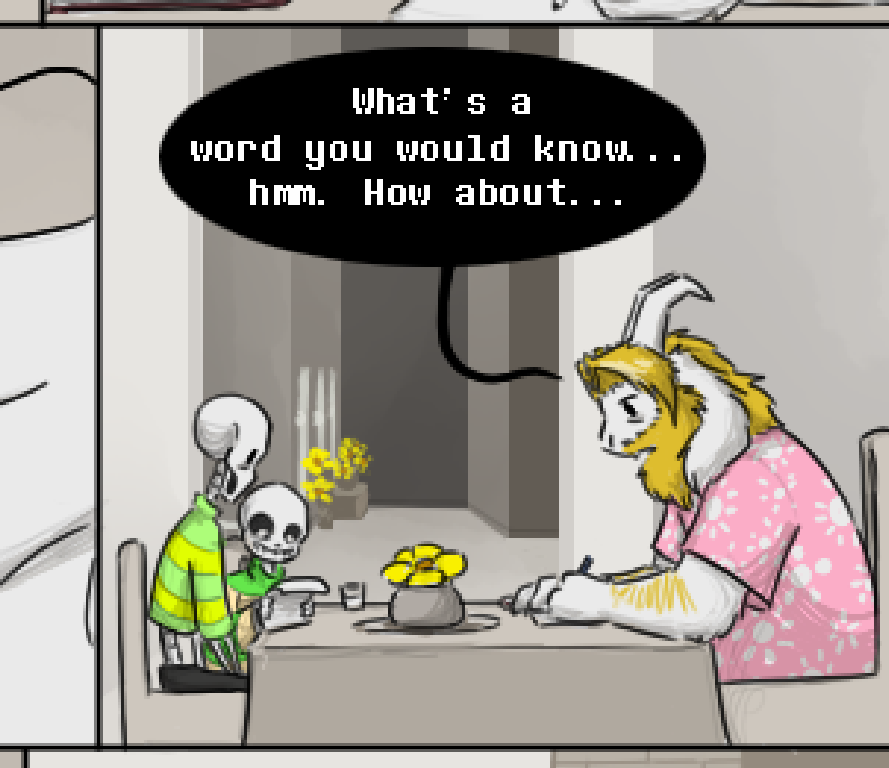


Hmm... a cipher, like I thought.

Just a moment...



Here, do you see? Here are your letters, and here are my letters.



What's a word you would know... hmm. How about...



Yes, good!

So this is something, at least...

so, he's speaking in a code, i think

UM... COULD YOU MAYBE TRANSLATE IT AGAIN? UH, JUST IN CASE HE DIDN'T GET IT

Wonderful! I'll go make some tea...

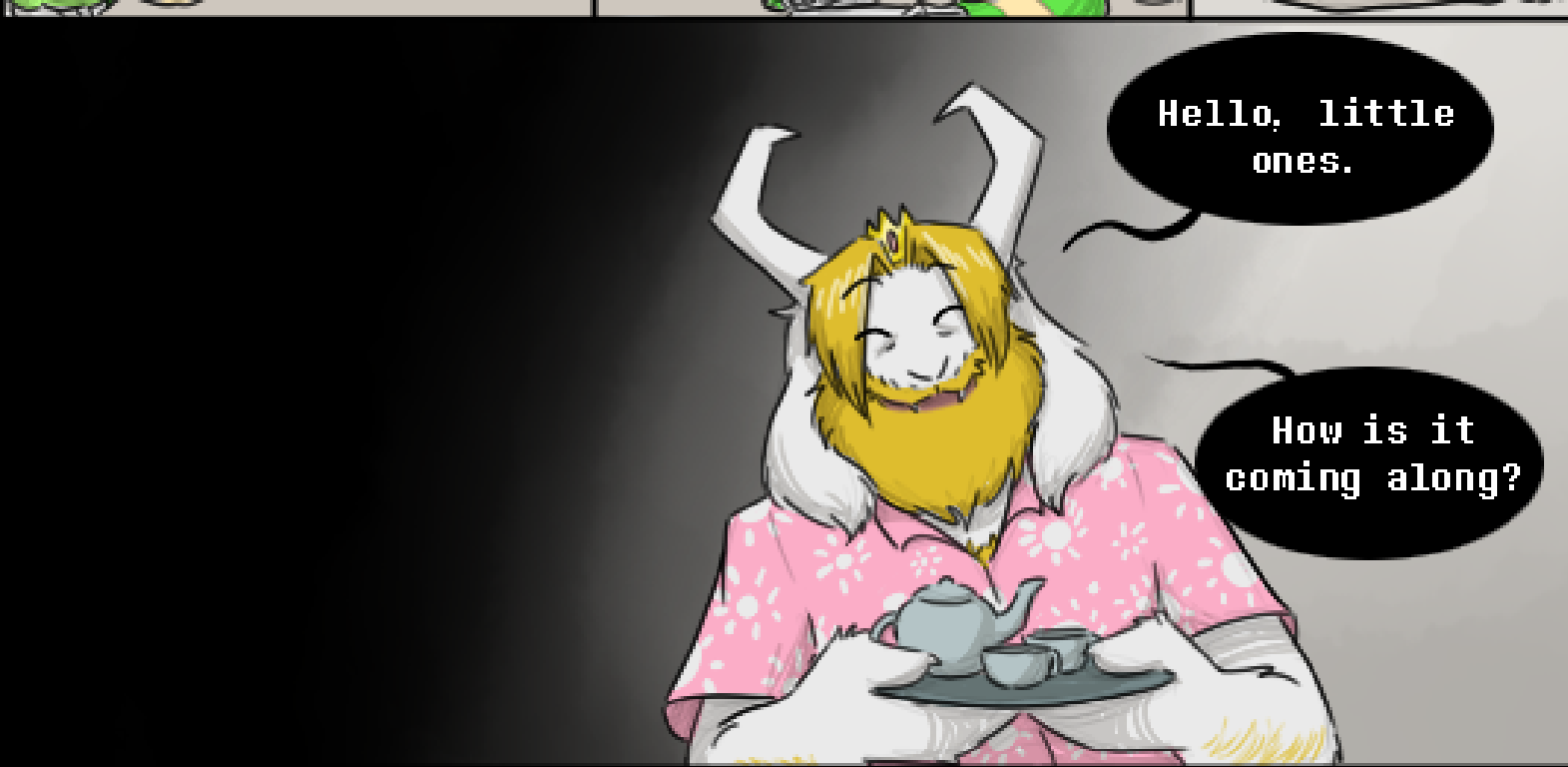


THAT'S WEIRD, WHY'S HE DOING THAT?

i don't know, but i think i can figure it out.



yeah, here see

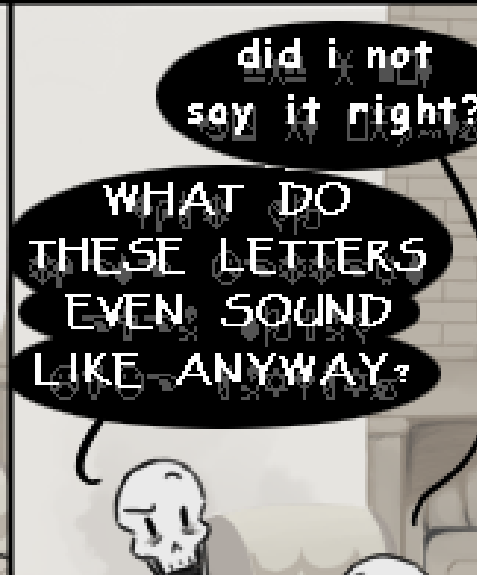


Hello, little ones.

How is it coming along?



adkfjg
bafghhhe
hnasdghj.



did i not say it right?

WHAT DO THESE LETTERS EVEN SOUND LIKE ANYWAY?

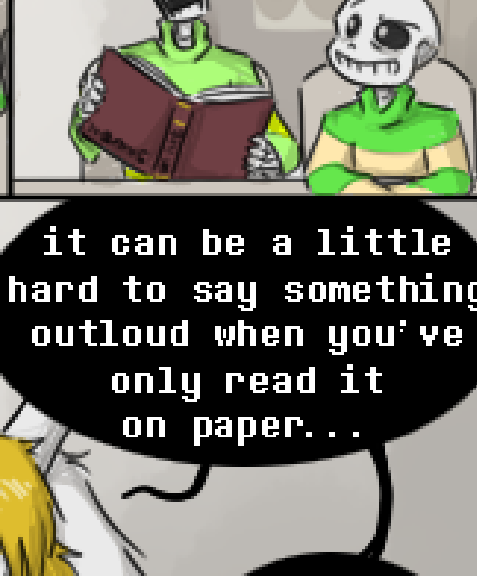


let me ask



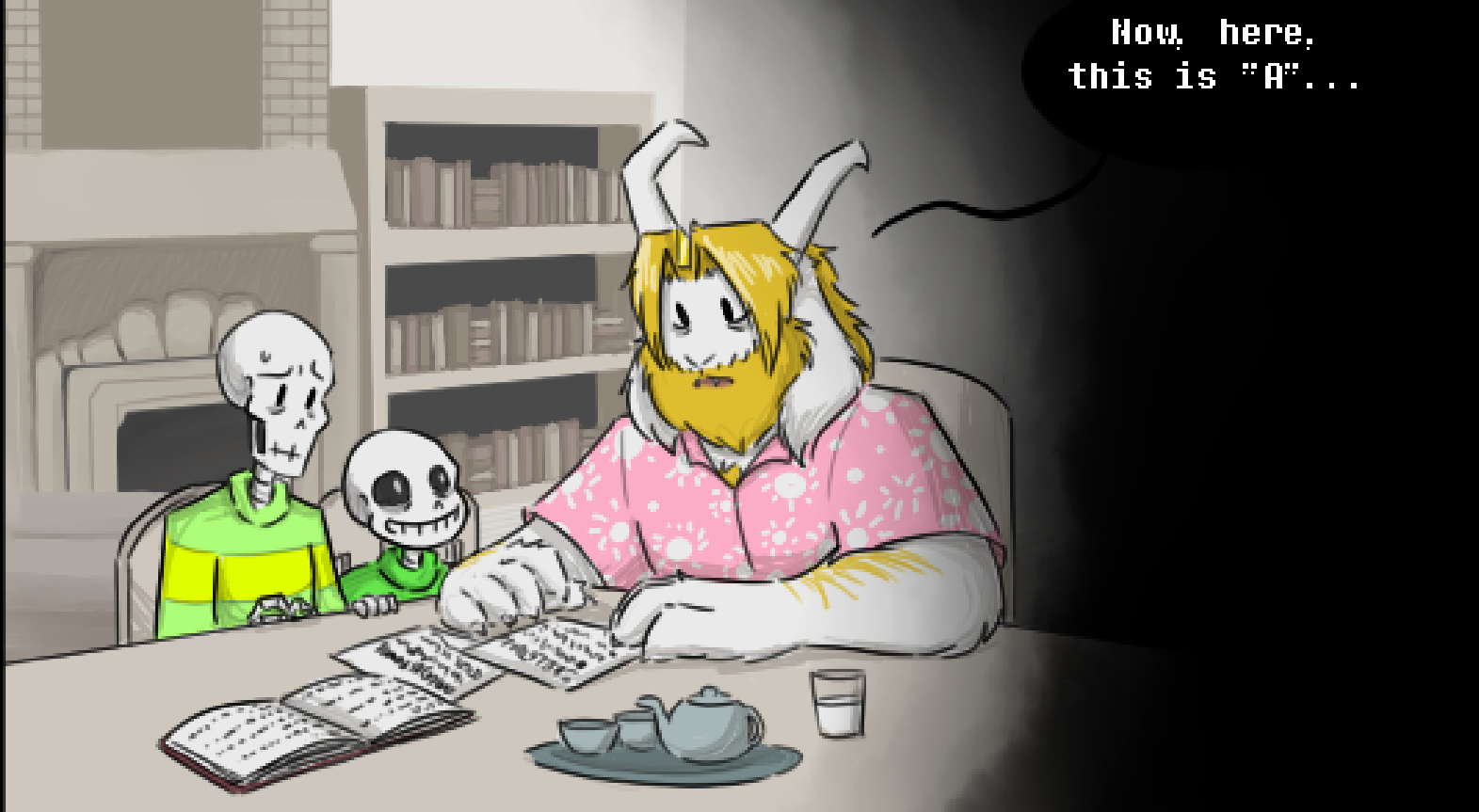
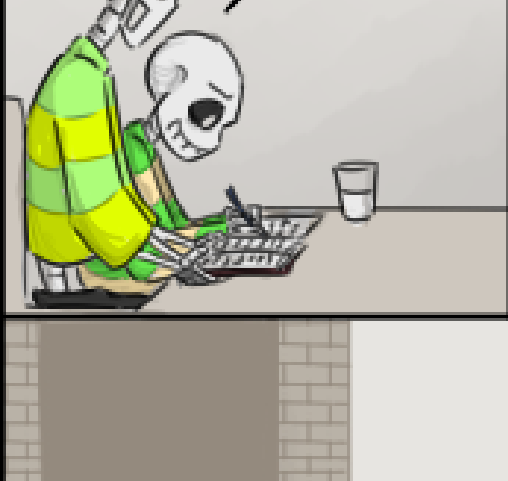
"did i say it right"...

Oh, of course...



it can be a little hard to say something outloud when you've only read it on paper...

do not worry, I can teach you.

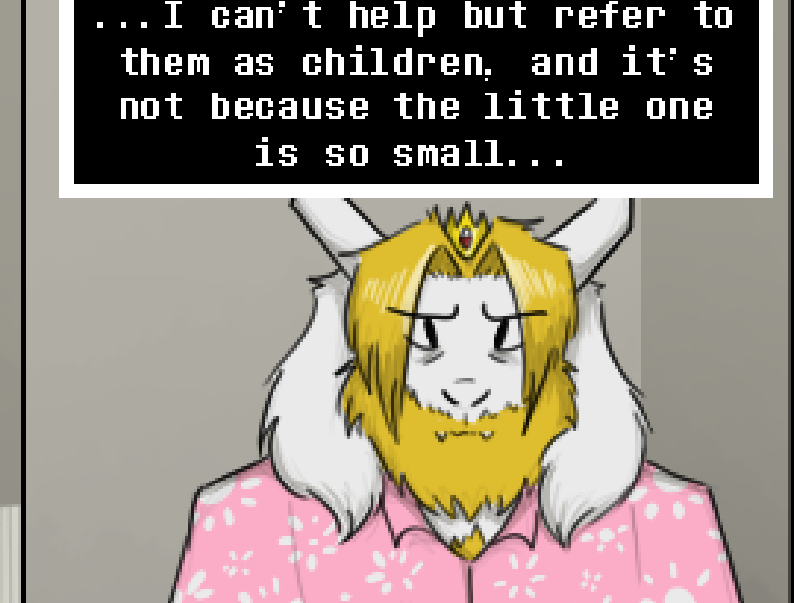


Now, here, this is "A"...

I have so many questions about these two children I've found! At least they are learning how to speak very quickly, so it won't take much longer before I can ask them properly...



...I can't help but refer to them as children, and it's not because the little one is so small...



Alright, that's enough for today, don't you think? It's time for bed. Come on...



Over here...



in you go, come on.

What is it?



On top, like this.



It's...

it's a bed.



Have you...?



Oh, you'll want to get underneath the blankets, little one.

Like this. There you go.



Now, goodnight.



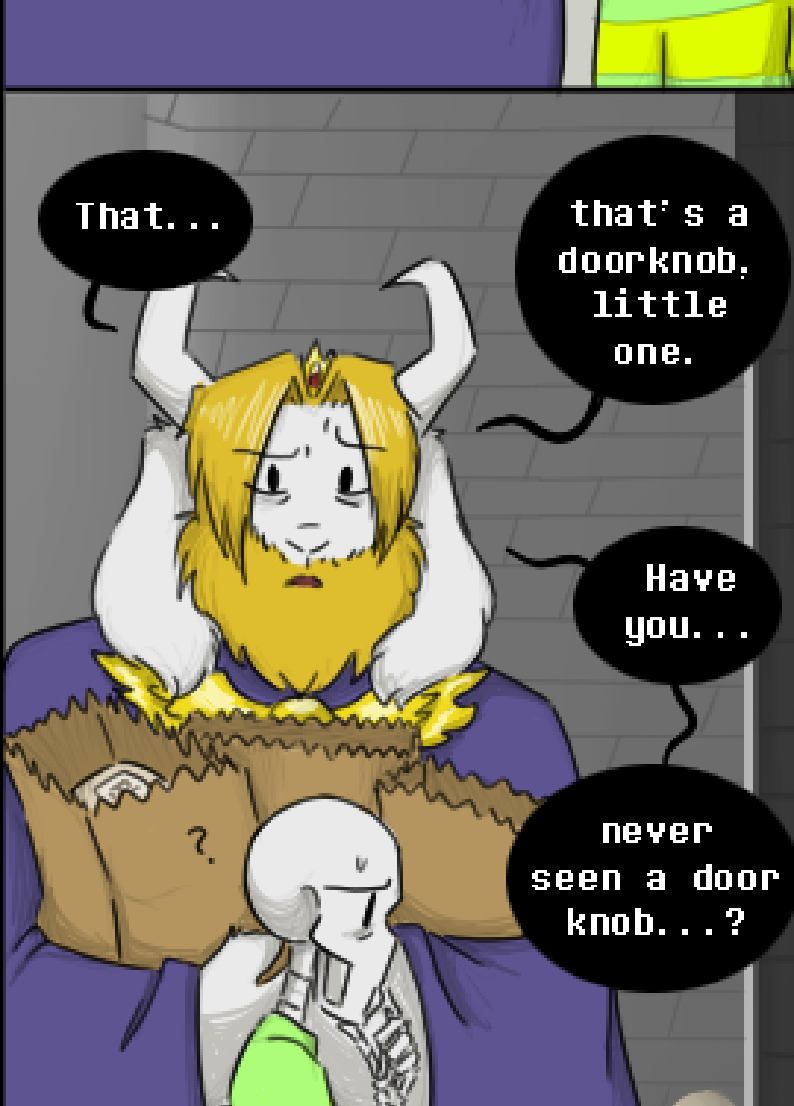
what's "goo nigh"?



Can you get the door knob for me?



...What is it?



That...

that's a doorknob, little one.

Have you...

never seen a door knob...?



Here you are...

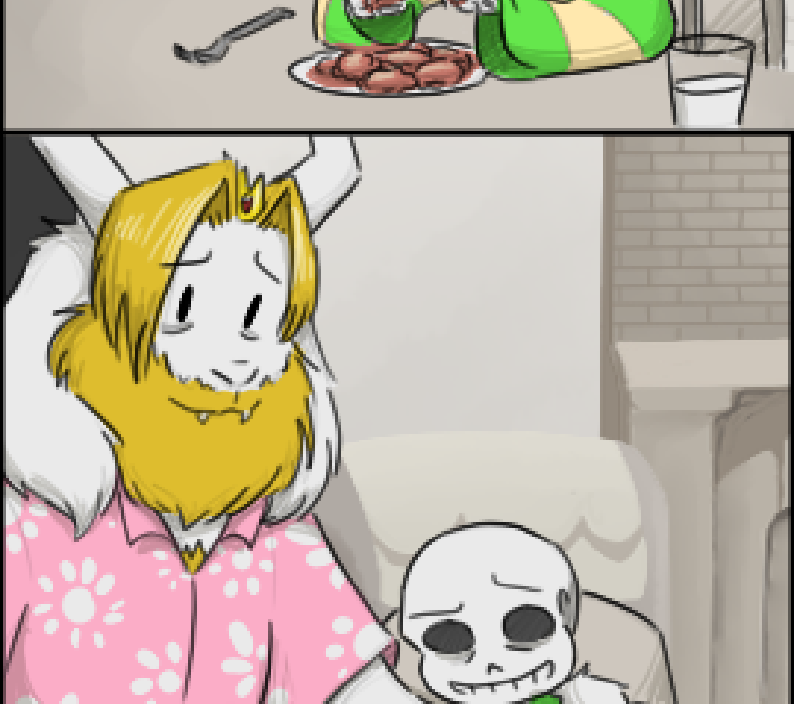
I'm not the best cook but-



Oh, not with your hands!



Use your fork!



Do you... not know how to use a fork...?



Have you never seen a fridge?

It's called a "flower"...

This is a fireplace...

You fill the tub with water, then you take the soap...

It's a light switch, you use it to turn the lights on or off...

Literally everything seems so new to them. It's strange... shouldn't they know some of this by their age...?



Hello, Dr. Alphys?



O-oh, uh, hello, y-your majesty, uh...

what brings you...

calling...

(ugh, so stupid)



I wanted to check in on how you're doing lately. I know you've been very busy...

O-oh, y-yeah, definitely real busy! I'm working really hard on... lots of things...



like, uh, Mettaton!

Yeah, I'm making a lot of progress on his new body, before you know it he'll be the u-ultimate human killing machine, ha ha...



Ah...

Well, I'm sure you'll do a wonderful job.



I have the utmost faith in your abilities, Dr. Alphys.

Yeah... that's me...

the great Dr. Alphys...



I actually also wanted to ask you something...



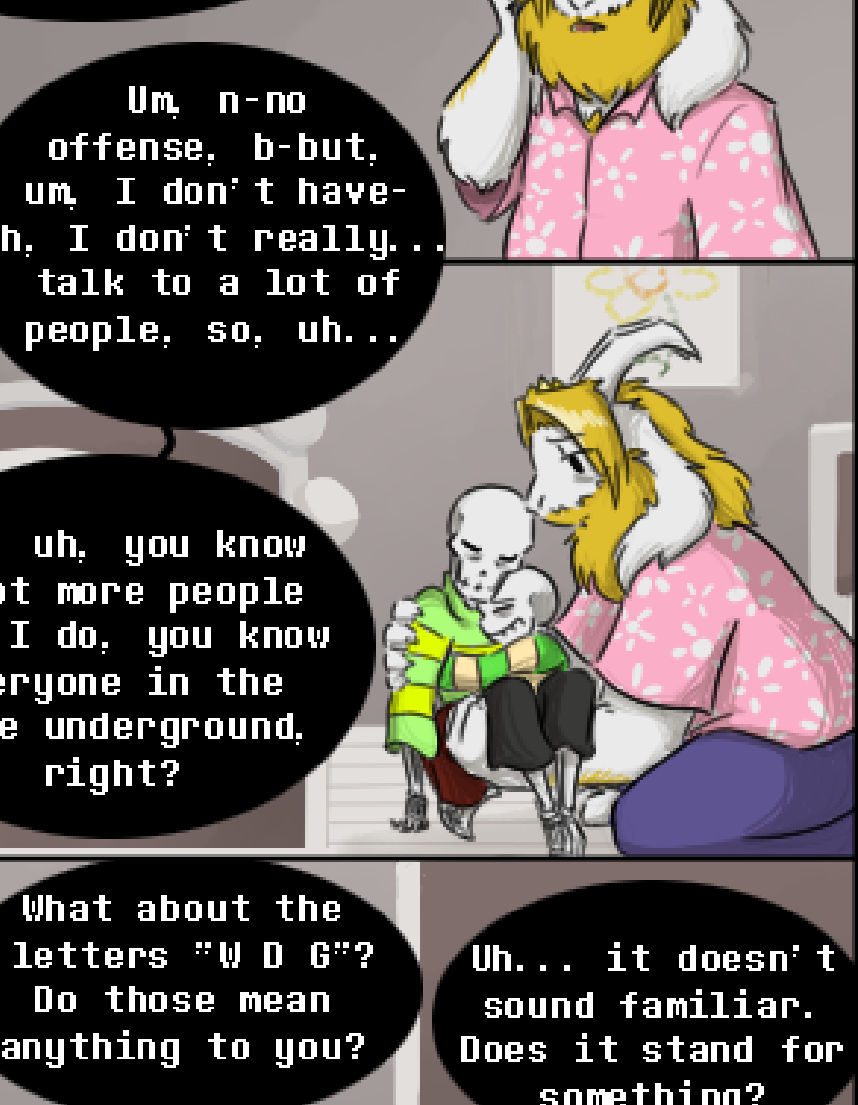
it may seem a little strange, but...

What is it?



Do you know any skeletons?

Uh... n-no, I've never seen one... I thought there weren't any left...?



And you don't know anyone who knows any skeletons...?

Um, n-no offense, b-but, um, I don't have-uh, I don't really... talk to a lot of people, so, uh...

and, uh, you know a lot more people than I do, you know everyone in the whole underground, right?



So, uh... if you don't know someone, then... there's no way I know... s-sorry.

No, it's alright. I thought I might as well ask.



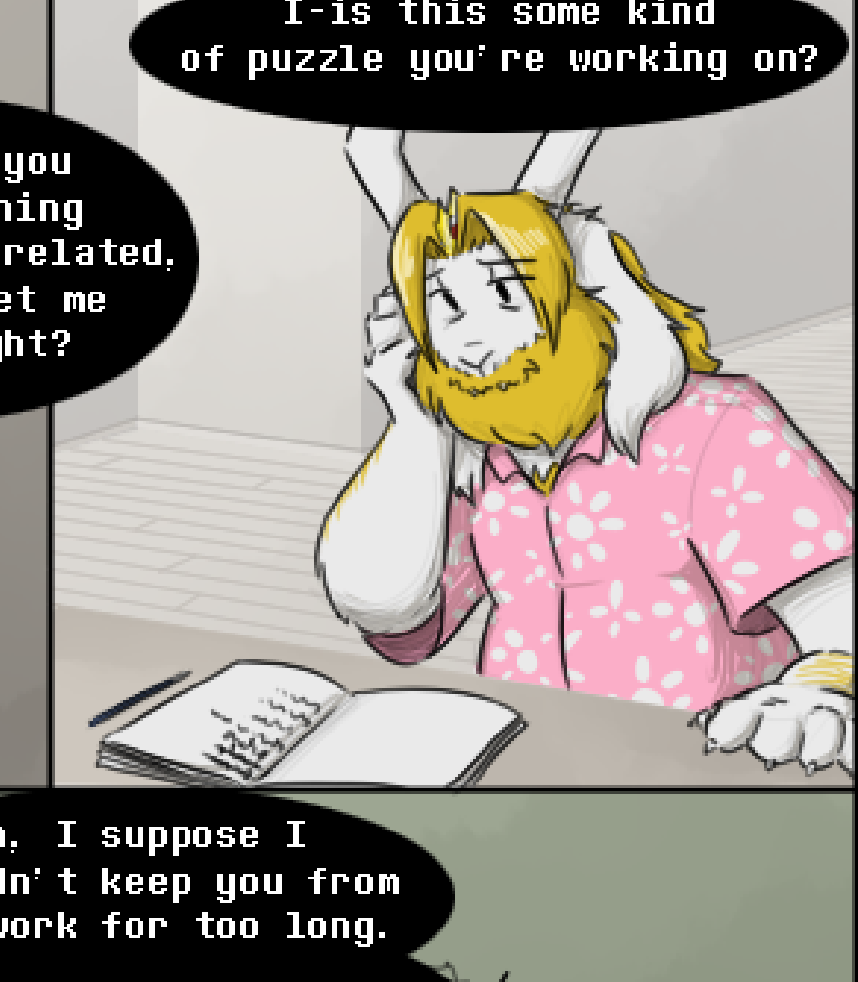
What about the letters "W D G"? Do those mean anything to you?

Uh... it doesn't sound familiar. Does it stand for something?



I'm not sure myself...

well, if you hear anything that might be related, you will let me know, right?



I-is this some kind of puzzle you're working on?



...You could say that.

Ah, I suppose I shouldn't keep you from your work for too long.



But do try to get some rest alright? I won't be about you to be a hero.

U-uh, h-hello? I c-can't really hear you, I think something's wrong with the connection...



H-hello? Helloooo?

Your majesty?

Are you still there?



...H-hello?

Is some one...?



.....h-hello...?



Who... who's there...?

W-who is this...?



...D-did you hear any of that?

I'M NOT AN EAVESDROPPER, DARLING.



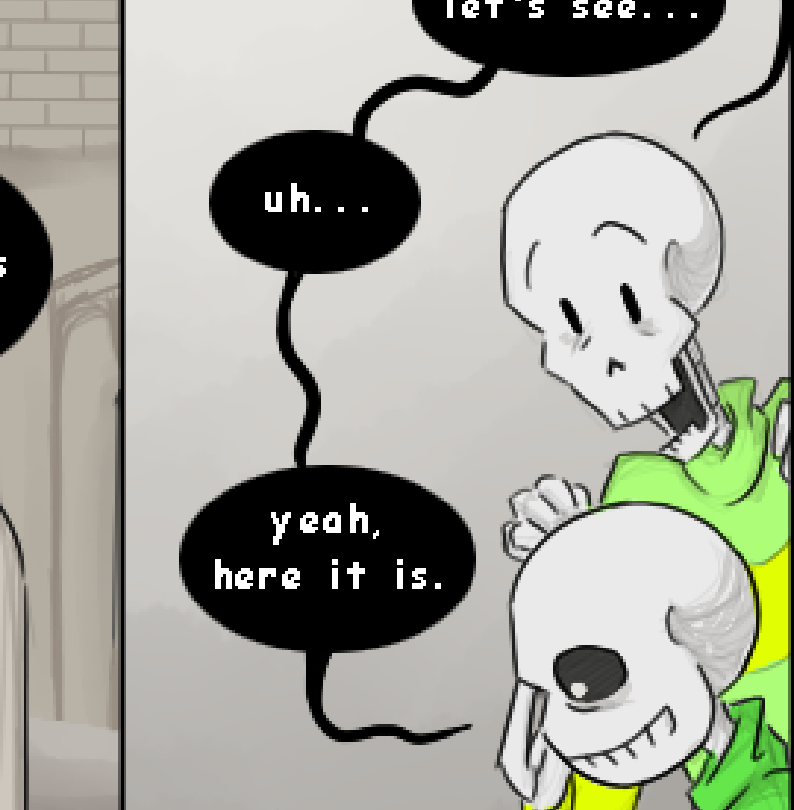
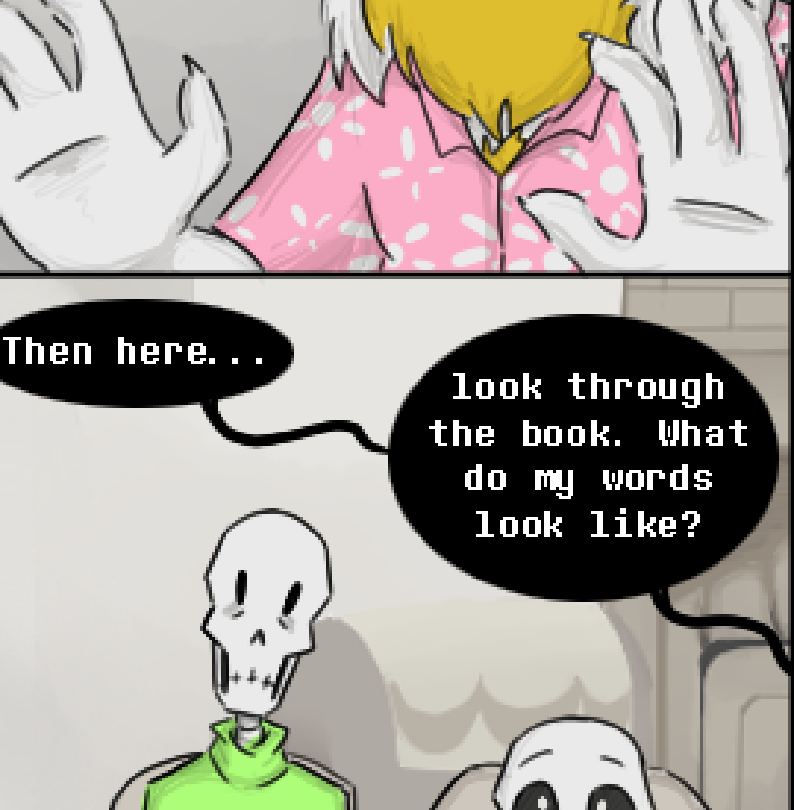
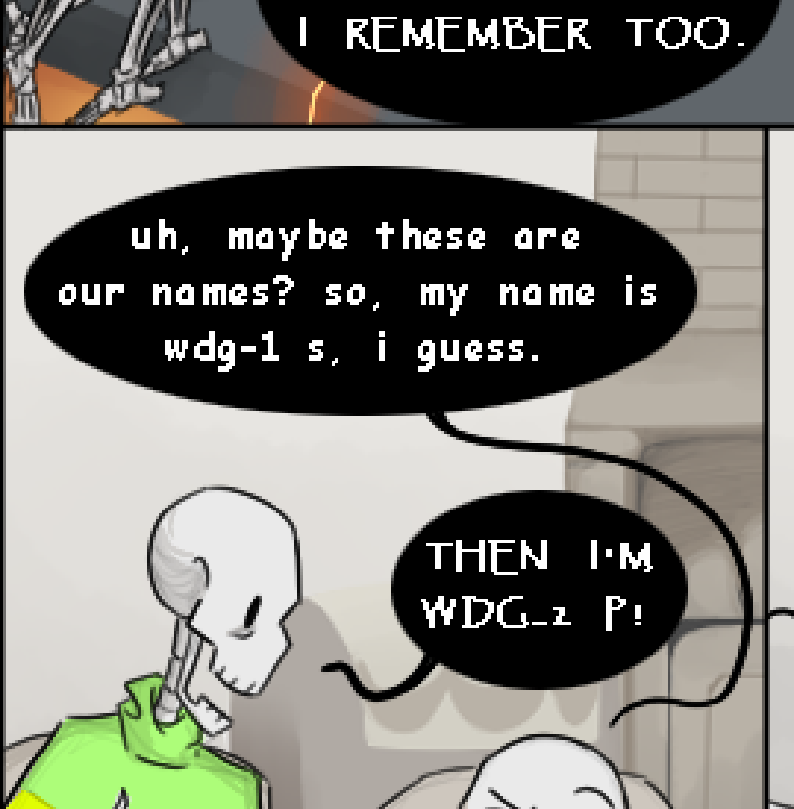
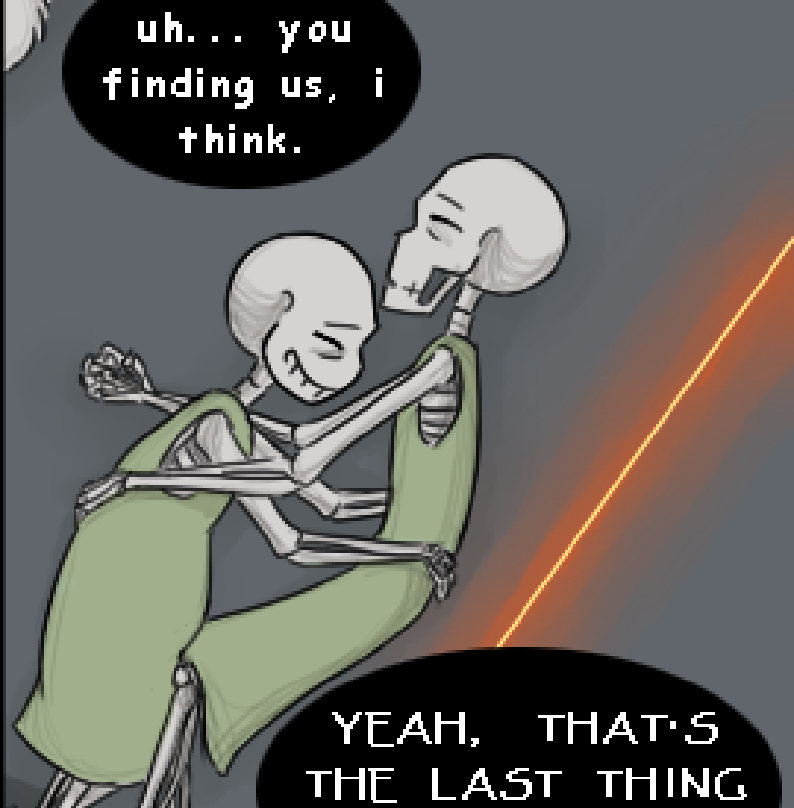
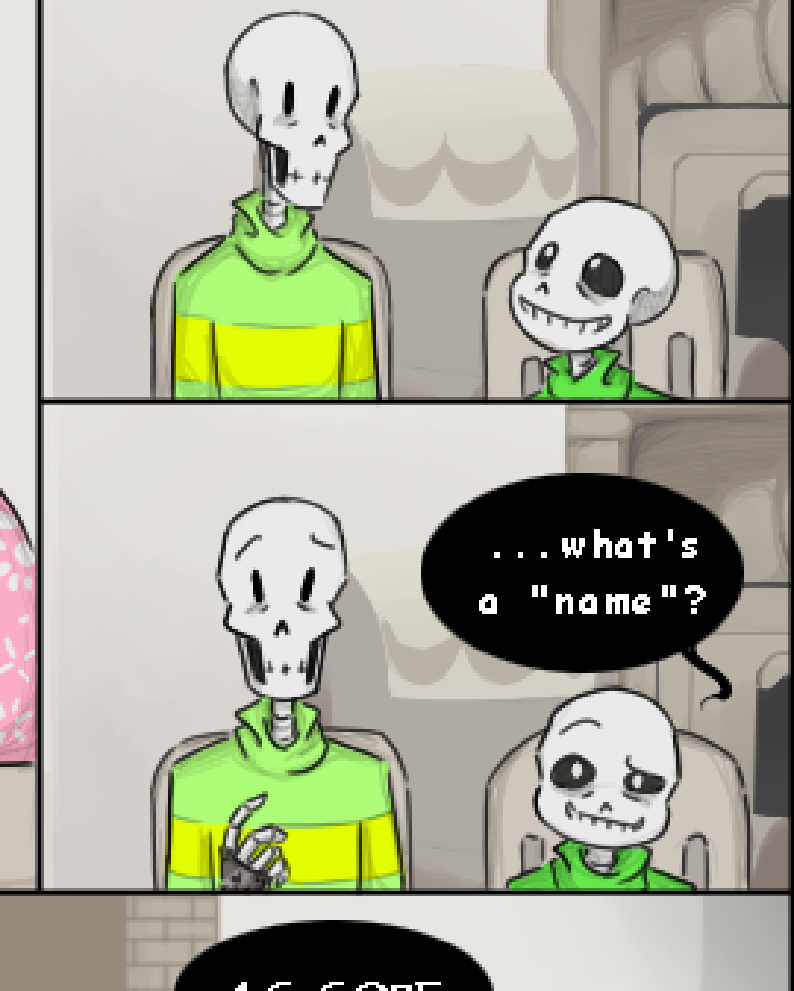
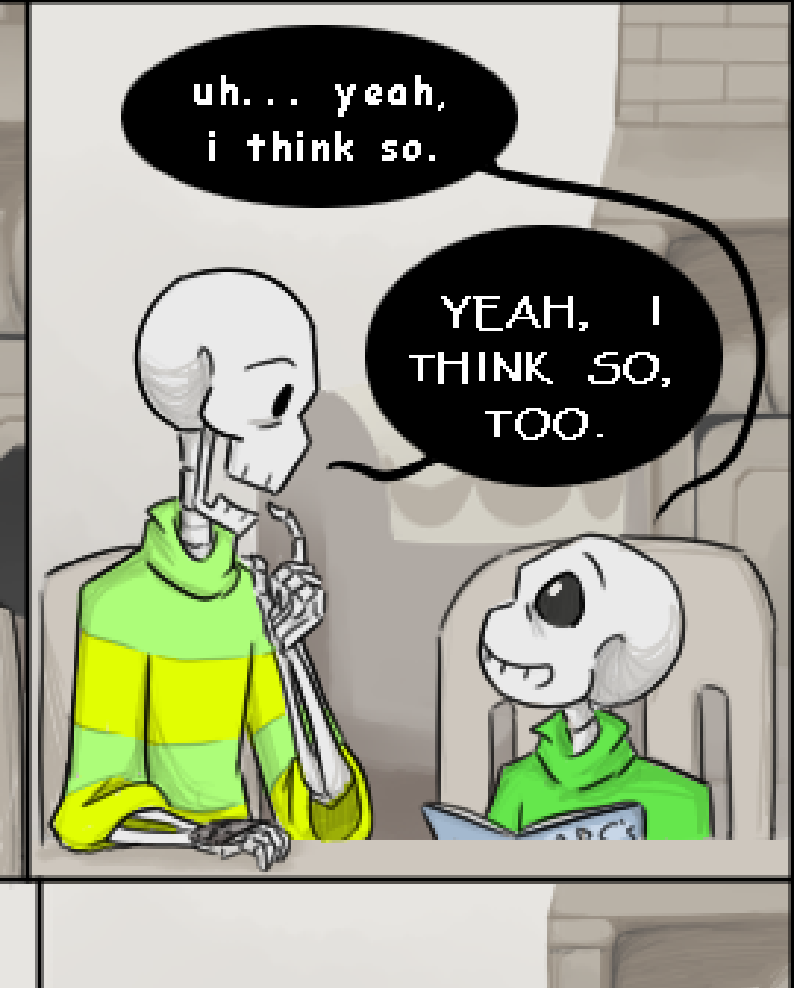
M... maybe it was just my phone...



it has been kind of glitchy lately...



FILE MANAGER	
dimensboxa.exe	239k
dimensboxb.exe	150k
doppliator.exe	20k
populsion.exe	666k
populsion.exe	1439k
populsion.exe	543k
populsion.exe	607k





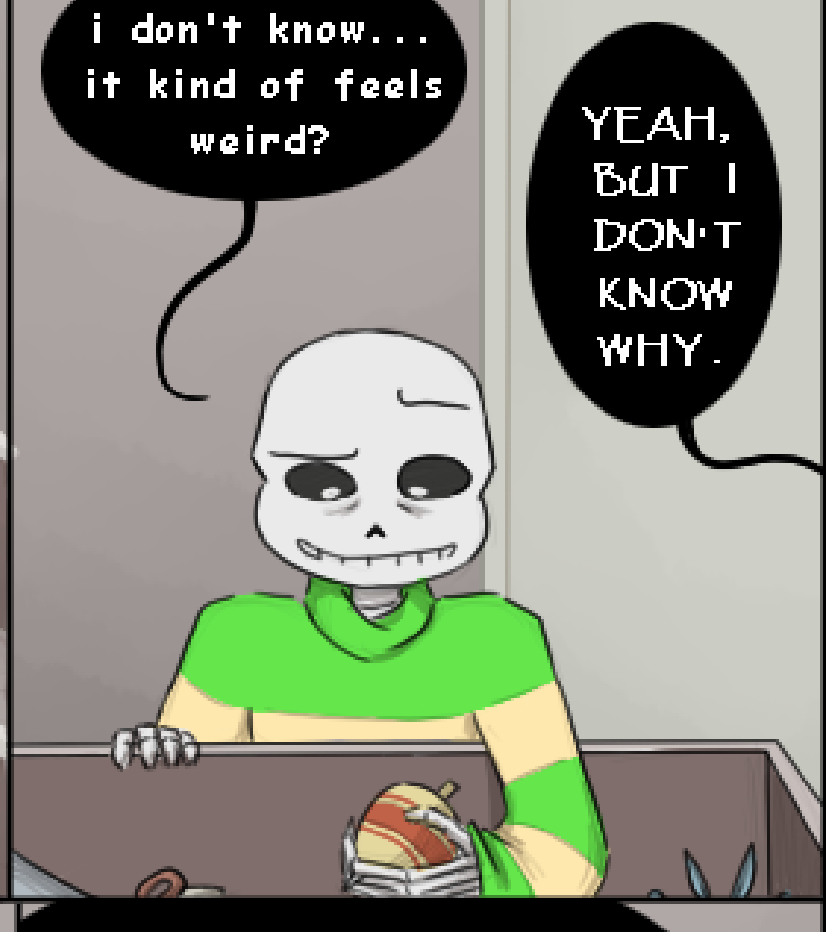
WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT HIM? OH, ASGORE, RIGHT?

he seems nice.

YEAH, HE'S BEING REALLY NICE TO US.



DO YOU THINK THAT'S NORMAL?



i don't know... it kind of feels weird?

YEAH, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHY.



i wonder why we can't remember anything...?

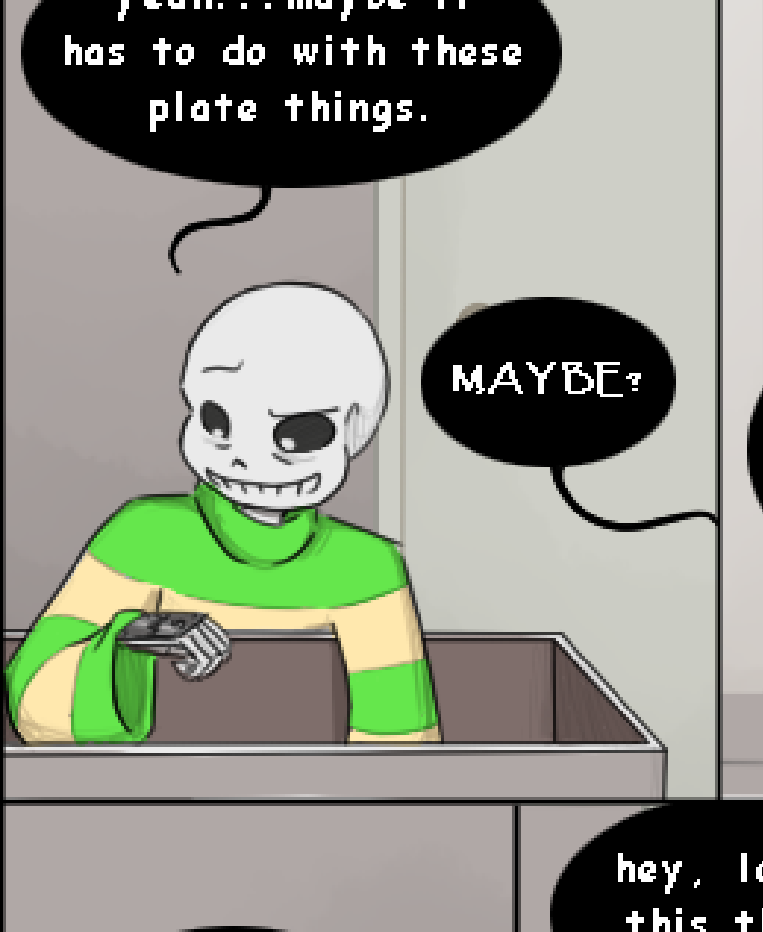
IS THAT WEIRD?

asgore seems to think it's weird...



IT DOES FEEL KIND OF WEIRD... I GET THIS FEELING LIKE, THERE'S SOMETHING REALLY IMPORTANT I'M FORGETTING

BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS.



yeah... maybe it has to do with these plate things.

MAYBE?



I WONDER WHAT THEY MEAN. IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT'LL COME OFF.

IT MUST BE IMPORTANT.



...i guess.



hey, look at this thing i found.

WHAT IS THAT?



maybe it goes on your hand like this...



hey, it kinda looks like a face, doesn't it?

mwap mwap mwap



STOP THAT!



heh, look at its eyes going around!

woop woop woop



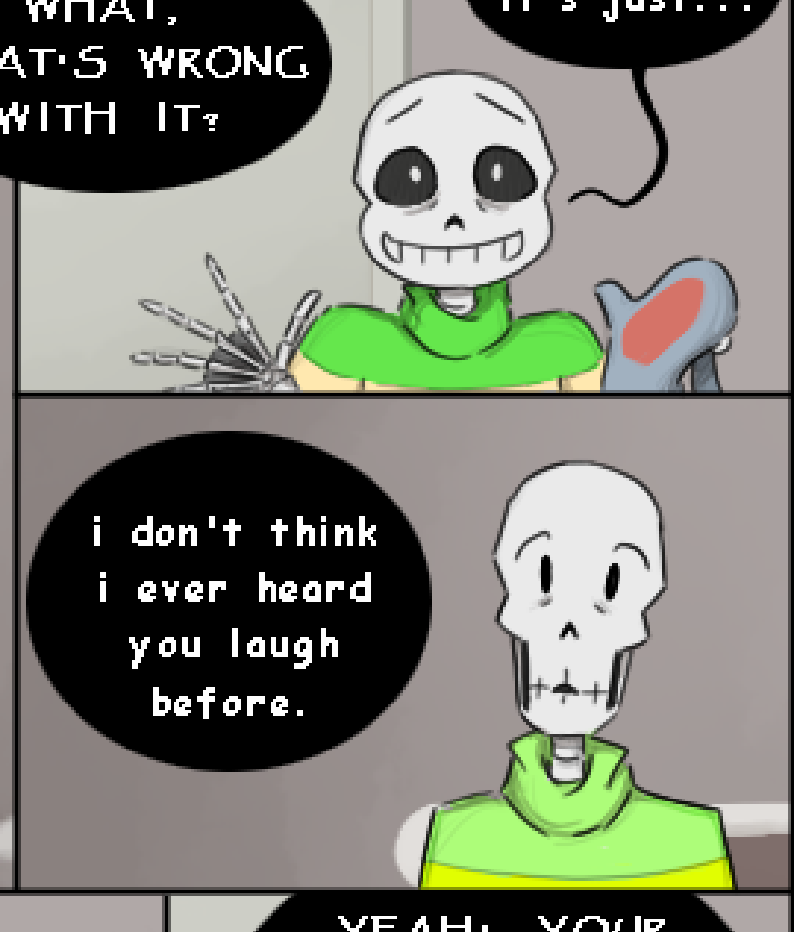
"hellooo papyruuus, your neck looks tastyyy, nomnomnom"

NYEH HEH HEH!



...is that how you laugh?

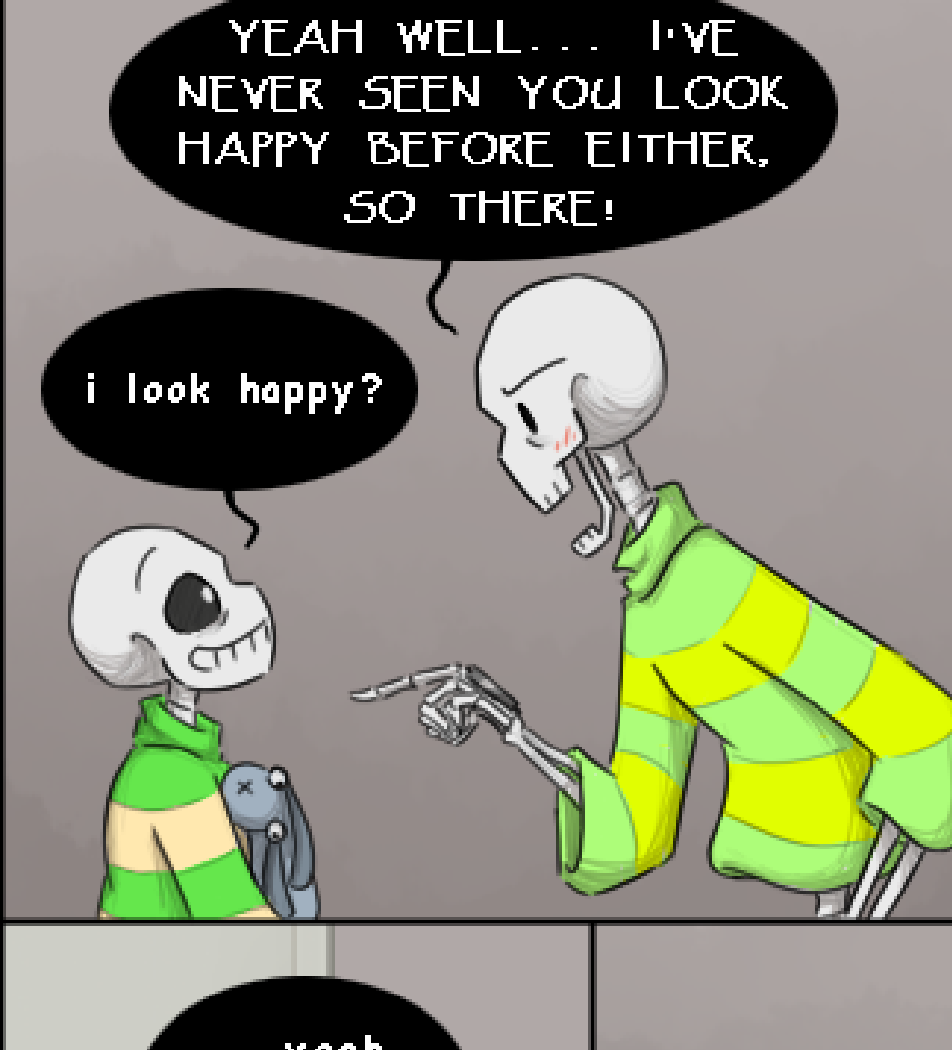
I... I GUESS?



WHAT, WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?

nothing, it's just...

i don't think i ever heard you laugh before.



YEAH WELL... I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU LOOK HAPPY BEFORE EITHER, SO THERE!

i look happy?



YEAH! YOUR SMILE'S REAL AND UP IN YOUR EYES, AND YOU'RE ALL RELAXED AND LOOSE. WHAT, AREN'T YOU HAPPY?



...yeah, yeah i am.



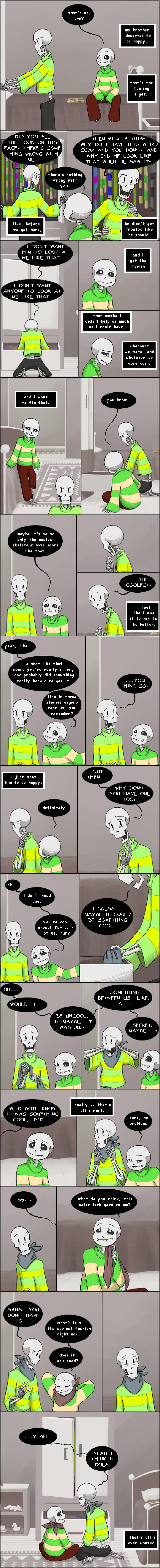
YOU KNOW...

ME TOO.



ME TOO.





what's up, bro?

my brother deserves to be happy.

that's the feeling i get.

DID YOU SEE THE LOOK ON HIS FACE? THERE'S SOME THING WRONG WITH ME.

THEN WHAT'S THIS? WHY DO I HAVE THIS WEIRD SCAR AND YOU DON'T? AND WHY DID HE LOOK LIKE THAT WHEN HE SAW IT?

there's nothing wrong with you.

like, before we got here,

he didn't get treated like he should.

I DON'T WANT HIM TO LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT...

I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.

and i get the feelin

that maybe i didn't help as much as i could have,

wherever we were, and whatever we were doin.

and i want to fix that.

you know...

maybe it's cause only the coolest skeletons have scars like that.

...THE COOLEST?

i feel like i owe it to him to be better.

yeah, like...

a scar like that means you're really strong, and probably did something really heroic to get it.

like in those asgore read us. you remember?

...YOU THINK SO?

i just want him to be happy.

definitely.

BUT THEN...

WHY DON'T YOU HAVE ONE TOO?

ah...

i don't need one.

you're cool enough for both of us, huh?

I GUESS... MAYBE IT COULD BE SOMETHING COOL.

UH...

WOULD IT...

BE UNCOOL, IF MAYBE, IT WAS JUST

SOMETHING BETWEEN US, LIKE, A...

SECRET, MAYBE...?

WE'D BOTH KNOW IT WAS SOMETHING COOL, BUT...

really... that's all i want.

sure, no problem.

hey...

what do you think, this color look good on me?

SANS, YOU DON'T HAVE TO...

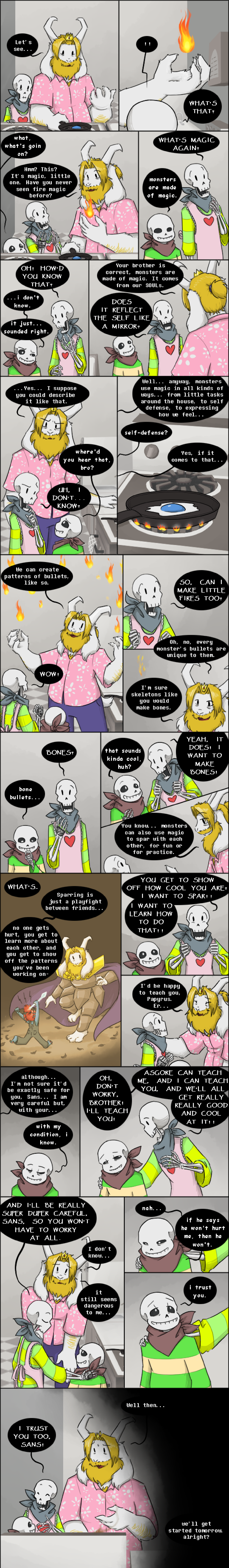
what? it's the coolest fashion right now.

does it look good?

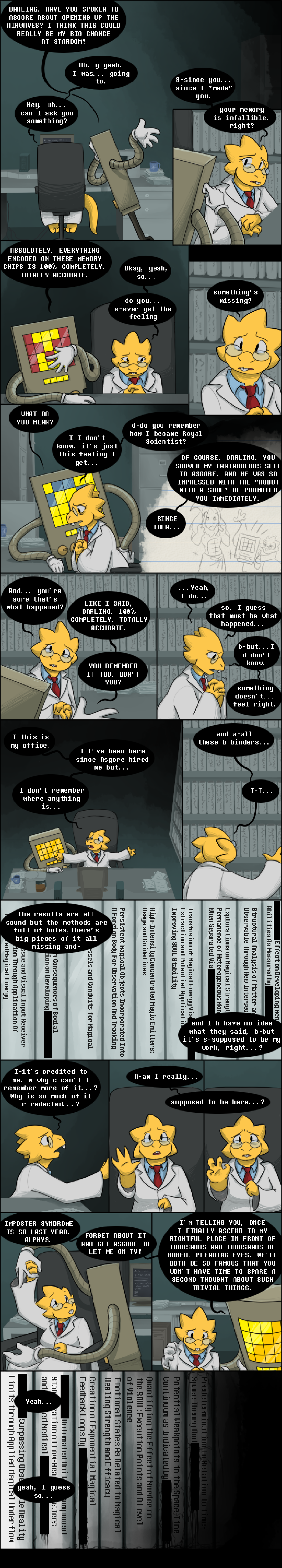
...YEAH...

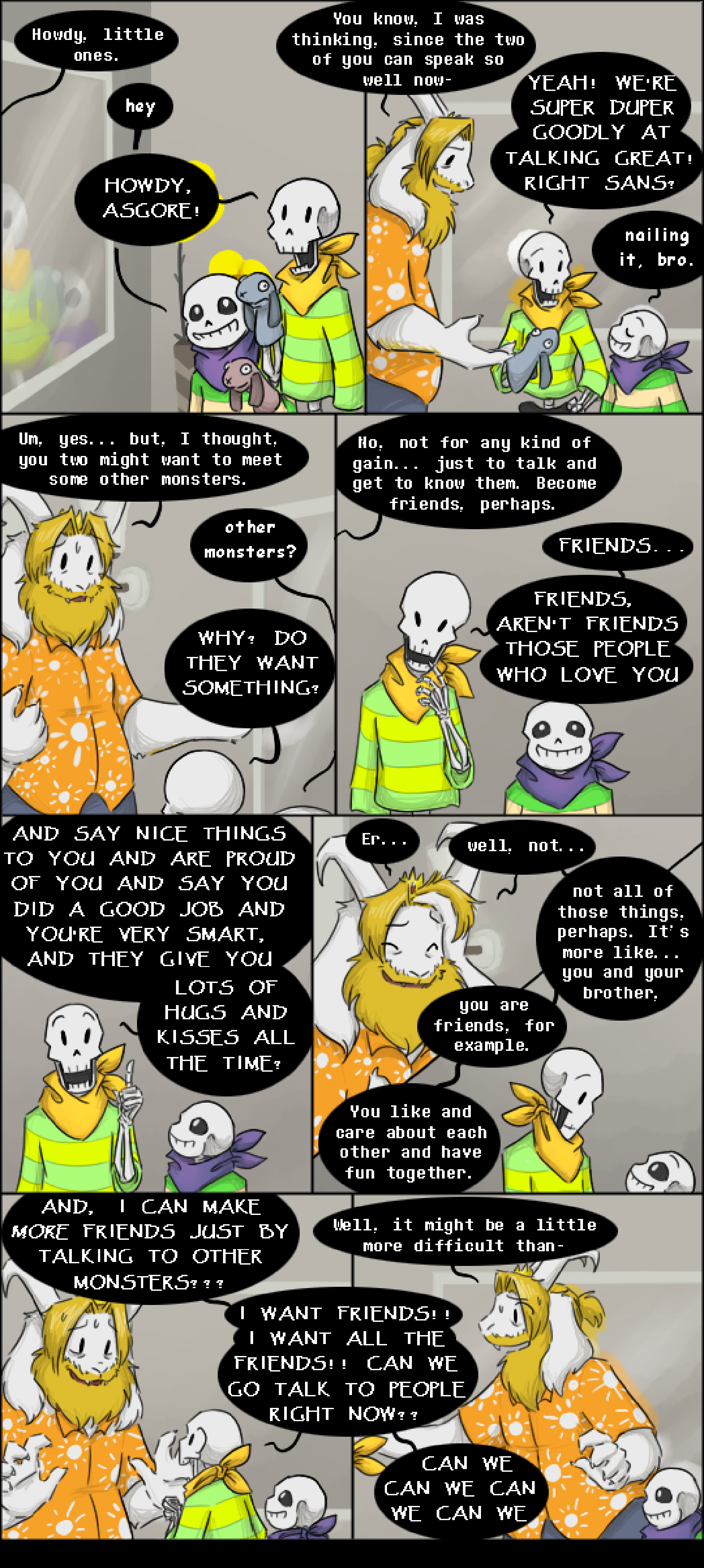
YEAH I THINK IT DOES.

that's all i ever wanted.









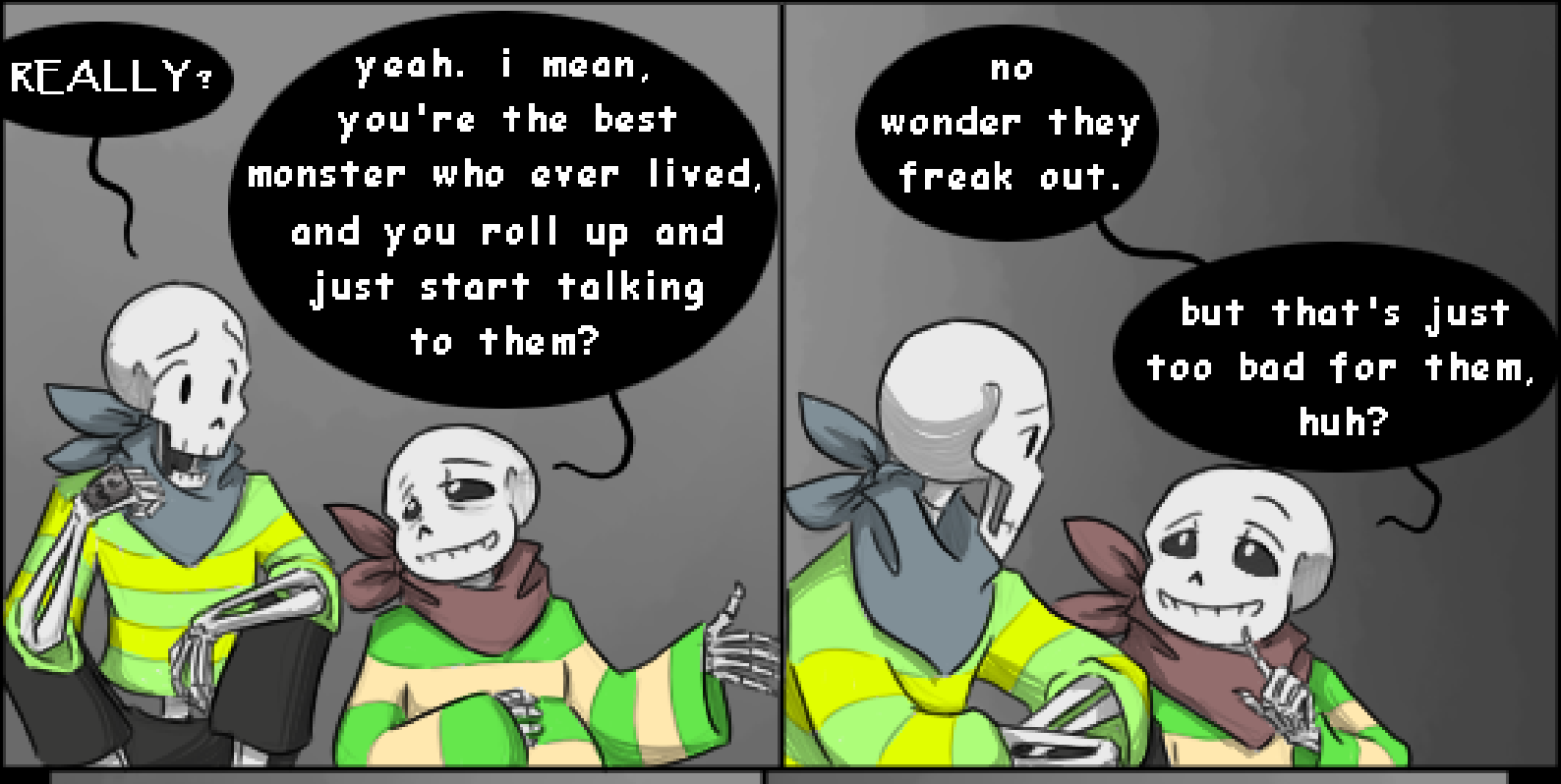
I wasn't quite sure what to expect.



Papyrus...



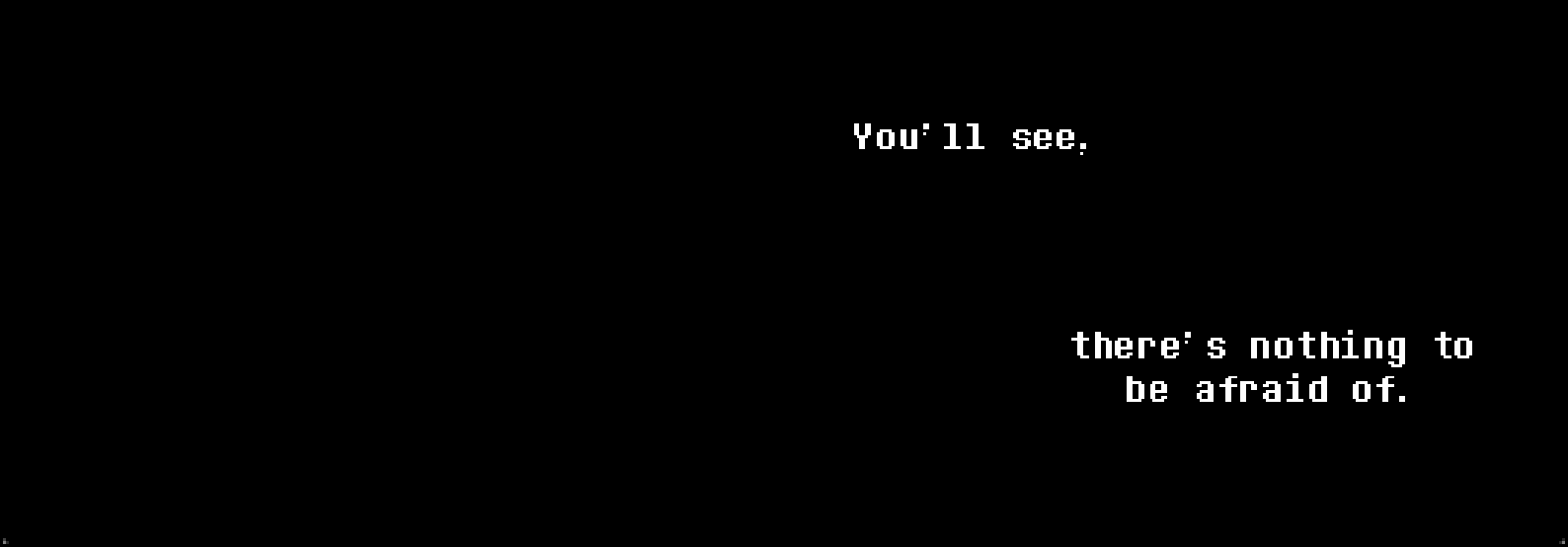
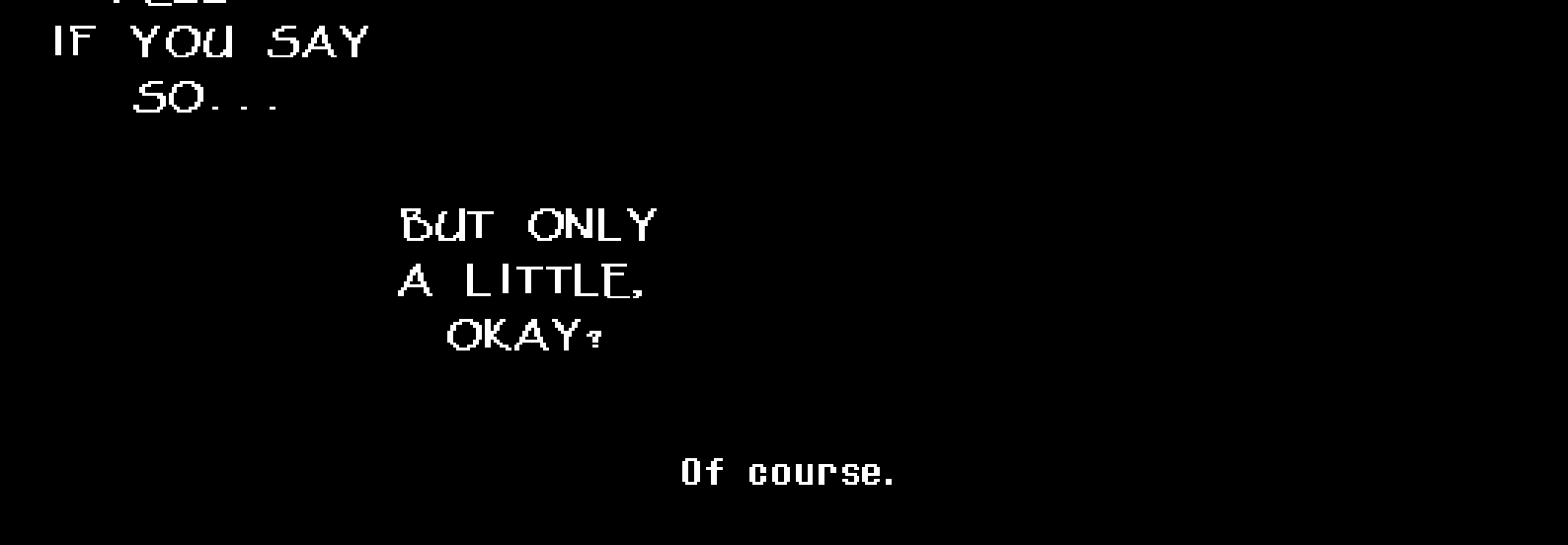
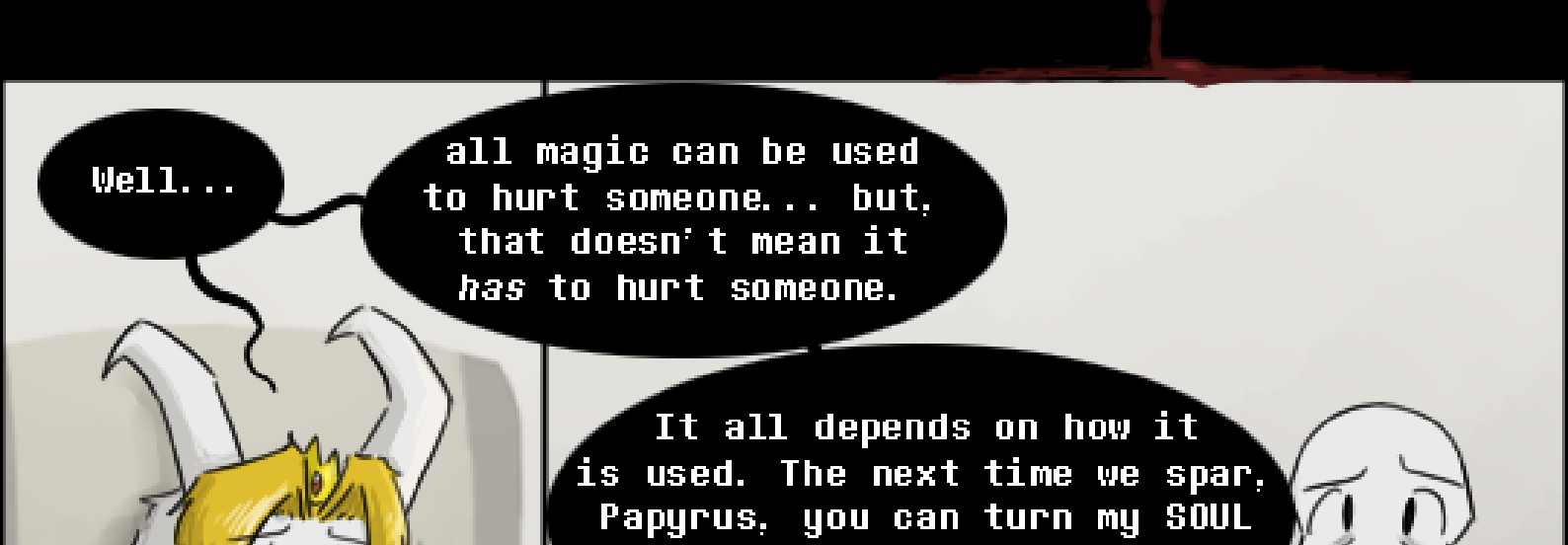
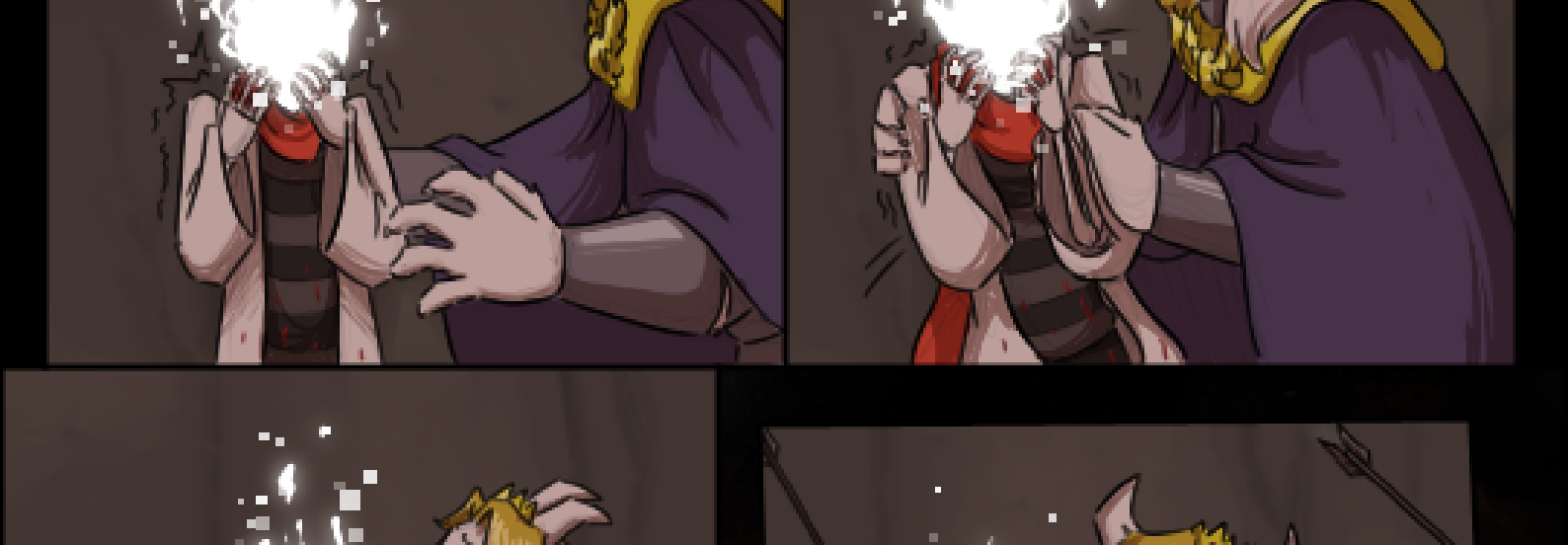
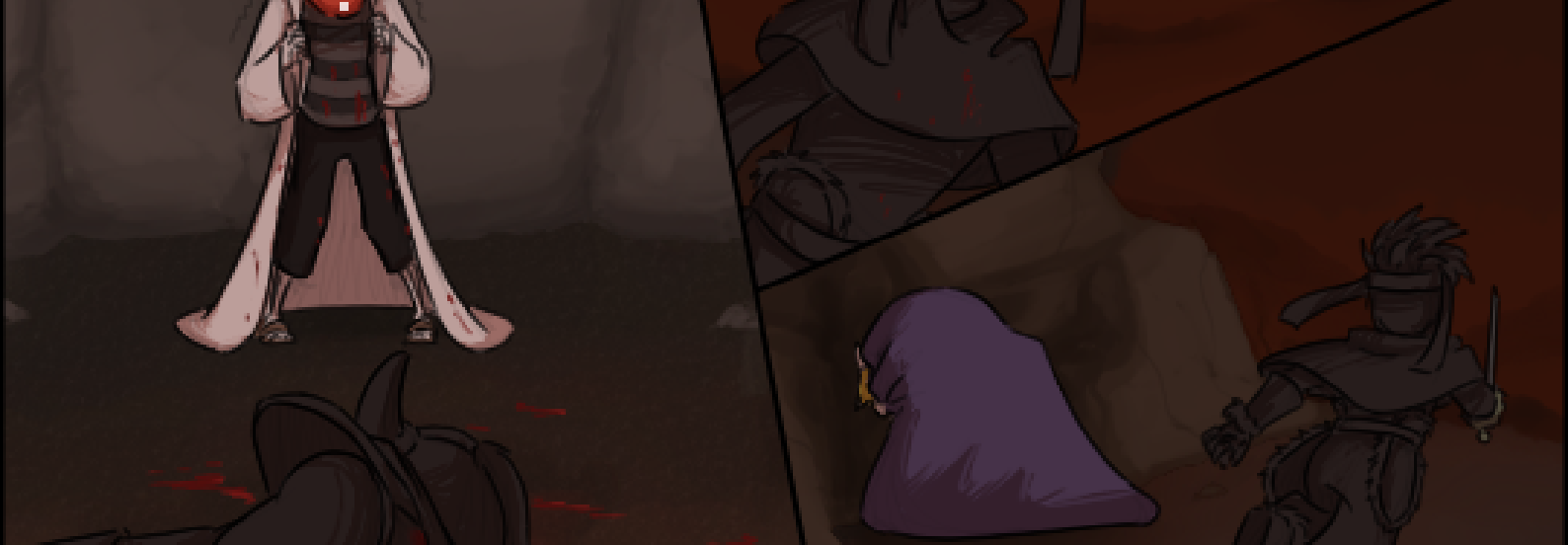
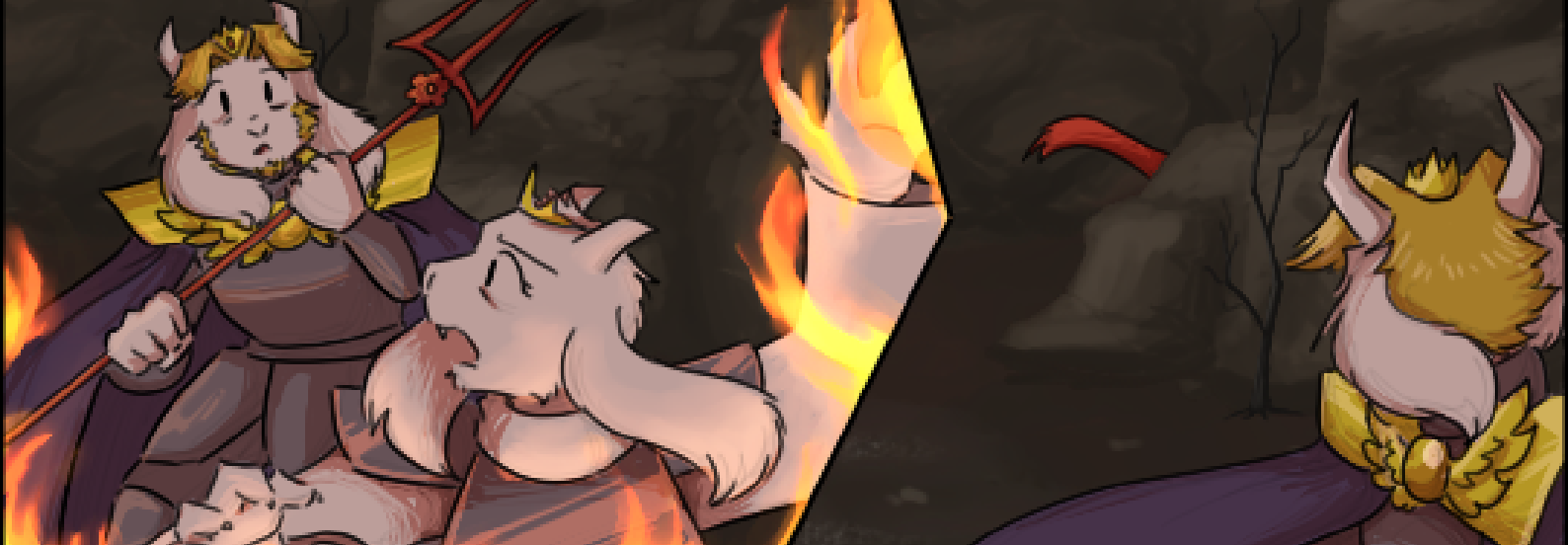
Papyrus... tries very hard.



Well...

at least they have each other, for now.







You're doing wonderfully, Papyrus!

You have a real aptitude for this!

ARE YOU SURE?

I DON'T KNOW...

I am definitely sure.

...He's been like this since it happened.

I think he's still in shock...

it must have been his first...

He has not said anything to you?

No, not a word...

Do you think you could try to talk to him?

He might respond to you...

You see, blue magic is no more dangerous than any other kind of magic.

And not every monster can use color magic, you know. In a way, it makes you special.

SORT OF LIKE A SPECIAL ATTACK...

Greetings, my child. Wingdings, isn't that right?

How are you feeling?

especially what just happened.

I know that you've been through a great deal lately...

RIGHT... RIGHT. NOTHING BAD'S HAPPENING. NOTHING BAD... UM...

Yes, that's a good way to think of it. You can even lift me over your bullets yourself, if you think I'm having trouble. It can help people, just like I said.

UH, SORRY, I'M STILL, UH, A LITTLE, TINY BIT NERVOUS, EVEN THOUGH.

I DON'T THINK YOU'RE LYING, OR ANYTHING...

There's no need to apologize, you're not doing anything wrong.

It's alright to be afraid sometimes.

It's alright... you do not have to speak.

May I share something with you?

But the more you use it, the less scary it will be. Do you remember how you felt when you first turned me blue?

UH HUM...

And now, it doesn't seem as scary, does it?

I... GUESS IT DOESN'T.

I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT IT LIKE THAT.

I was attacked and feared for my life... just as you did.

I remember, when it happened, feeling as though the act shattered my SOUL, but instead of disappearing, it reformed in an instant.

Stronger than before, but... different. Some parts of it were cold... numb, like a scar.

And I knew that I had changed...

something in me was different, and I could not go back.

When I had to fight again...

it was easier than before, to...

It will get easier and easier each time you use it, you'll see.

You don't have to stop being afraid all at once. Just one step at a time.

It's not something to do carelessly.

or thoughtlessly... but...

What you are going through...

you are not alone.

Do you understand what I mean?

I know I cannot take away your pain...

I'LL TRY... IT'S HARD THOUGH.

I know.

but you are very brave, Papyrus.

...but please, believe me when I say

that they would have wanted you alive.

I want you alive.

and as long as I am with you...

I will do my best to protect you,

so you won't have to do such things again.

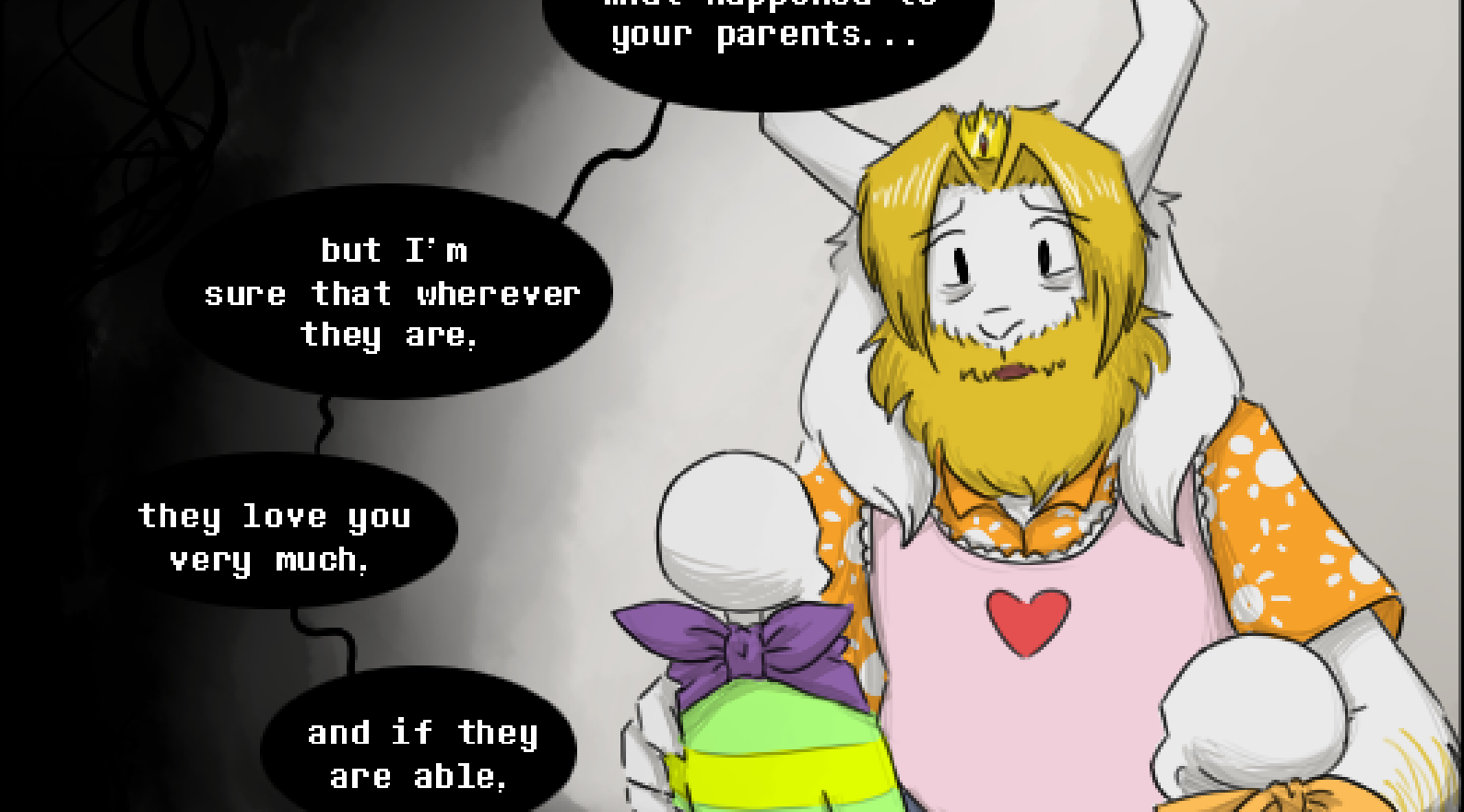
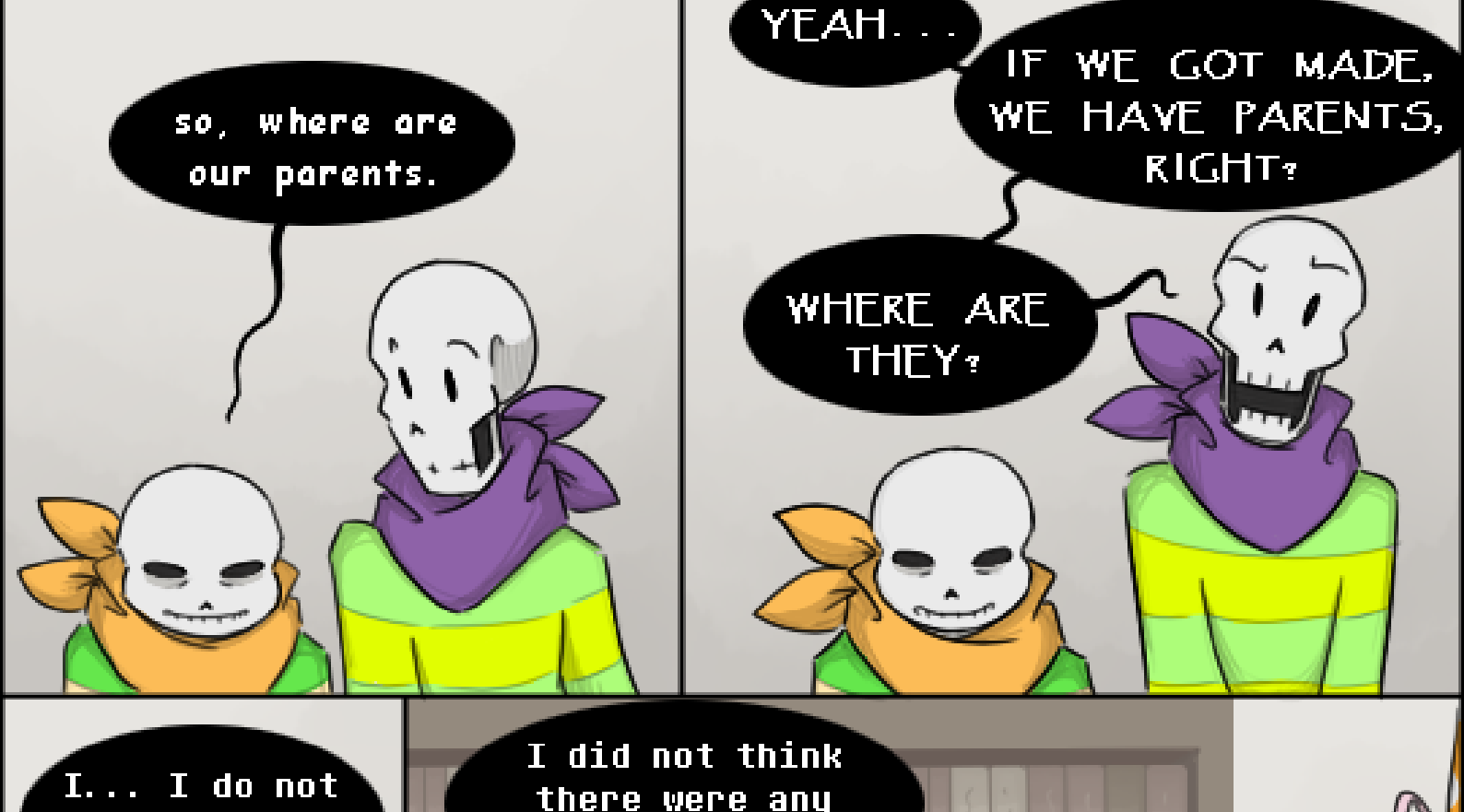
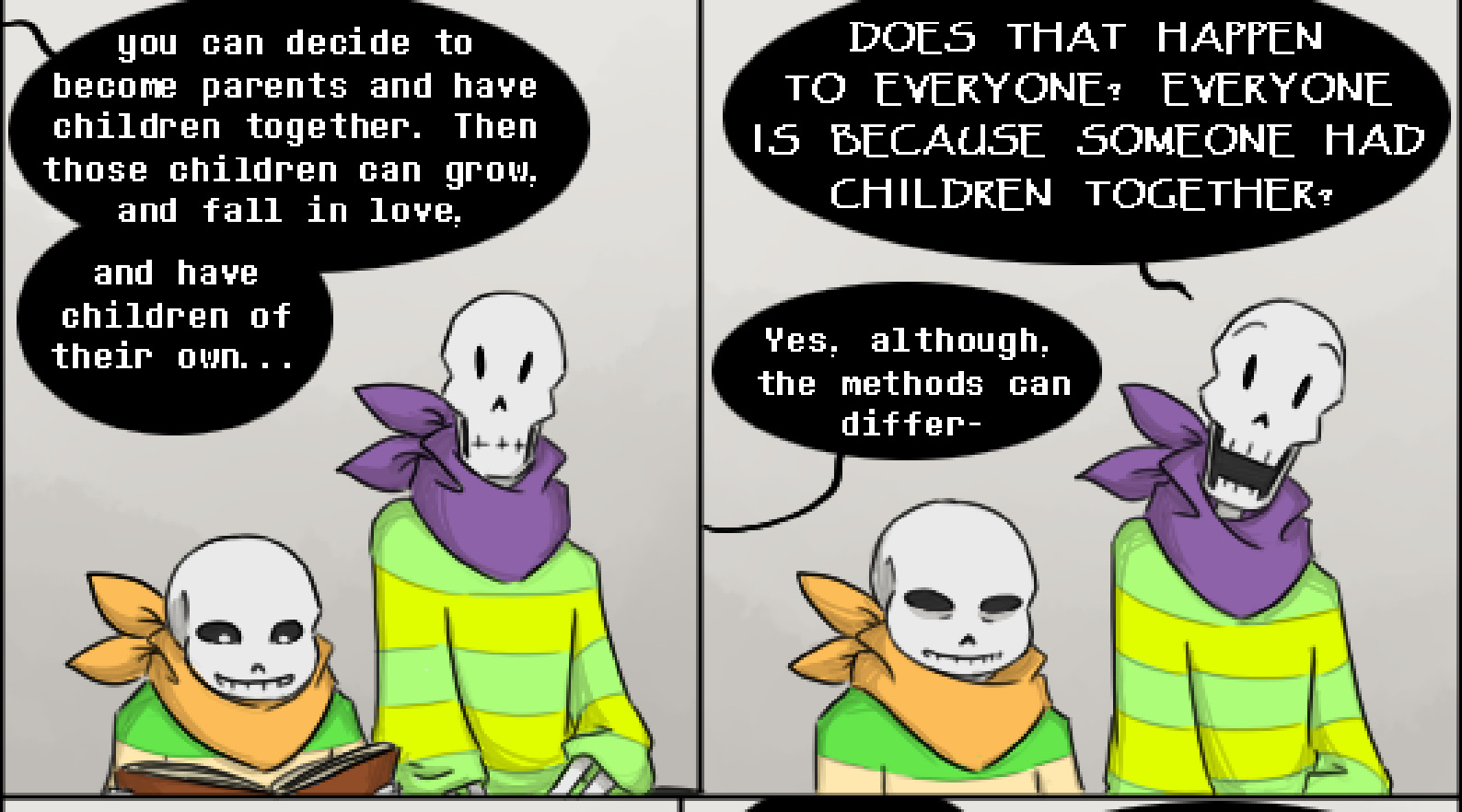
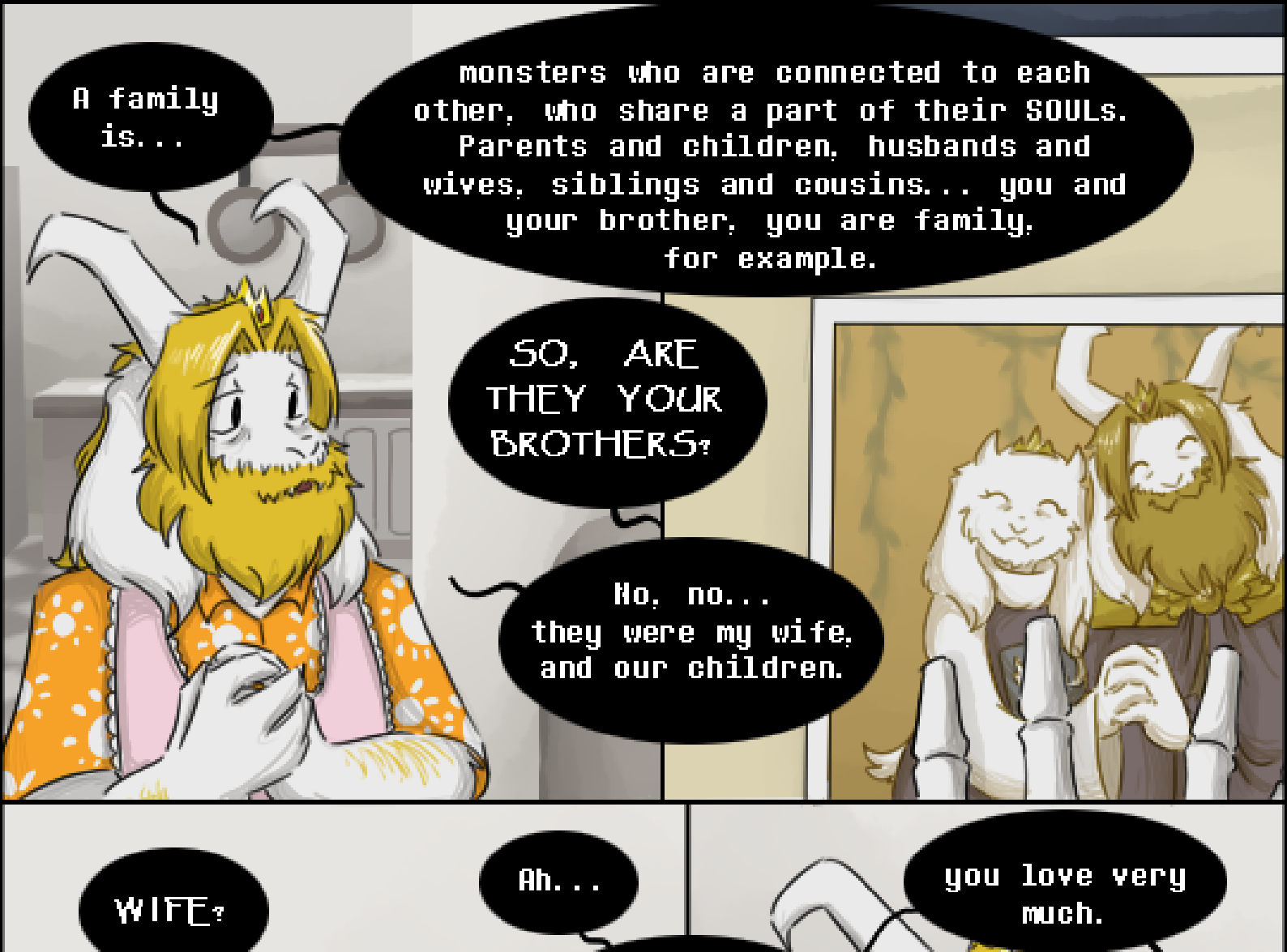
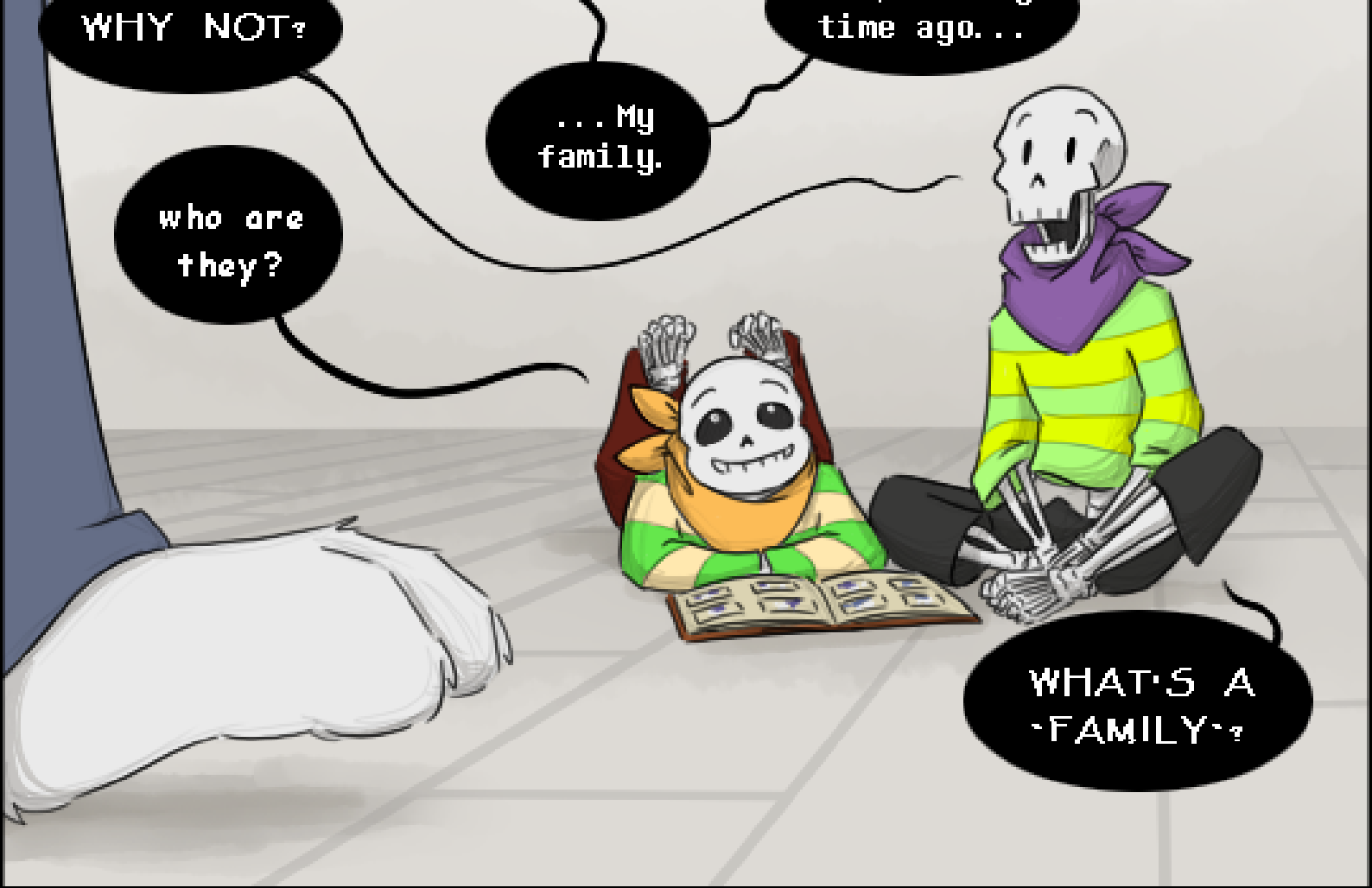
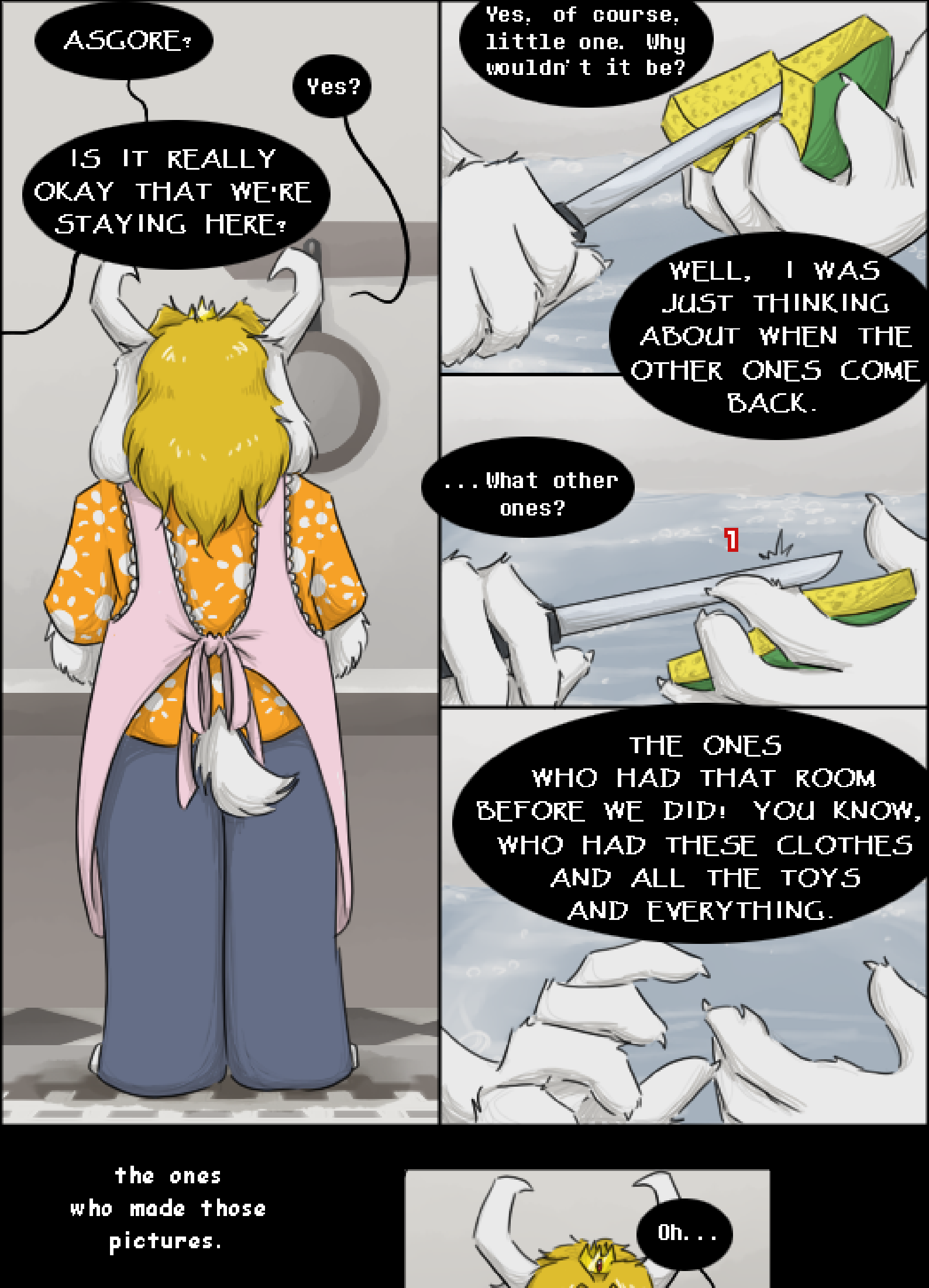
I'm sure you can conquer this.

And I'll do my best to help you along the way.

YEAH...

YEAH, I THINK I CAN, TOO.

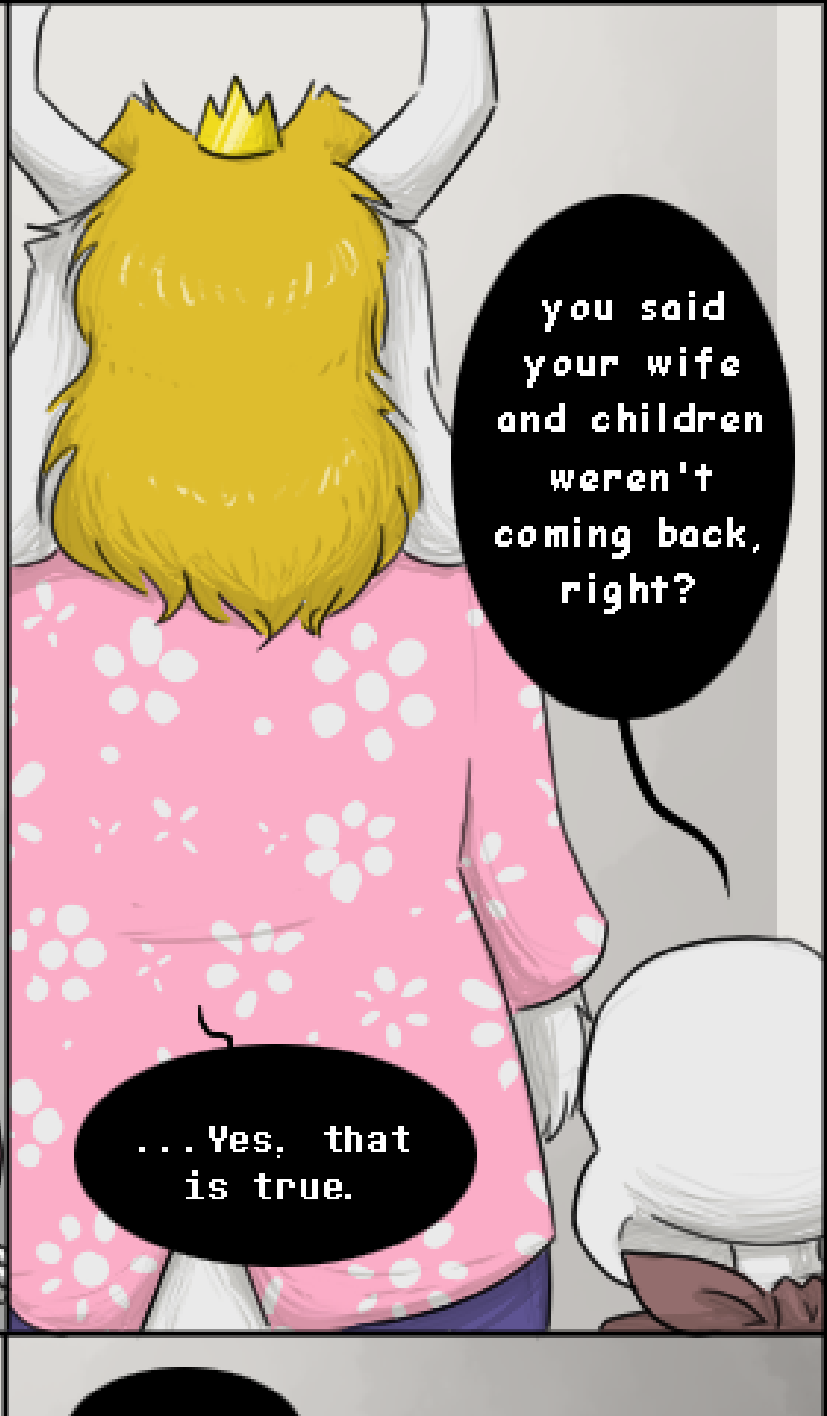
... THANKS.





asgore?

Yes, Sans?



you said
your wife
and children
weren't
coming back,
right?

...Yes, that
is true.



what happened?



...It's

difficult to
talk about.



okay...

but you
miss them though,
right?



Yes, every
day.



right...



What is it,
Sans? You
look troubled.

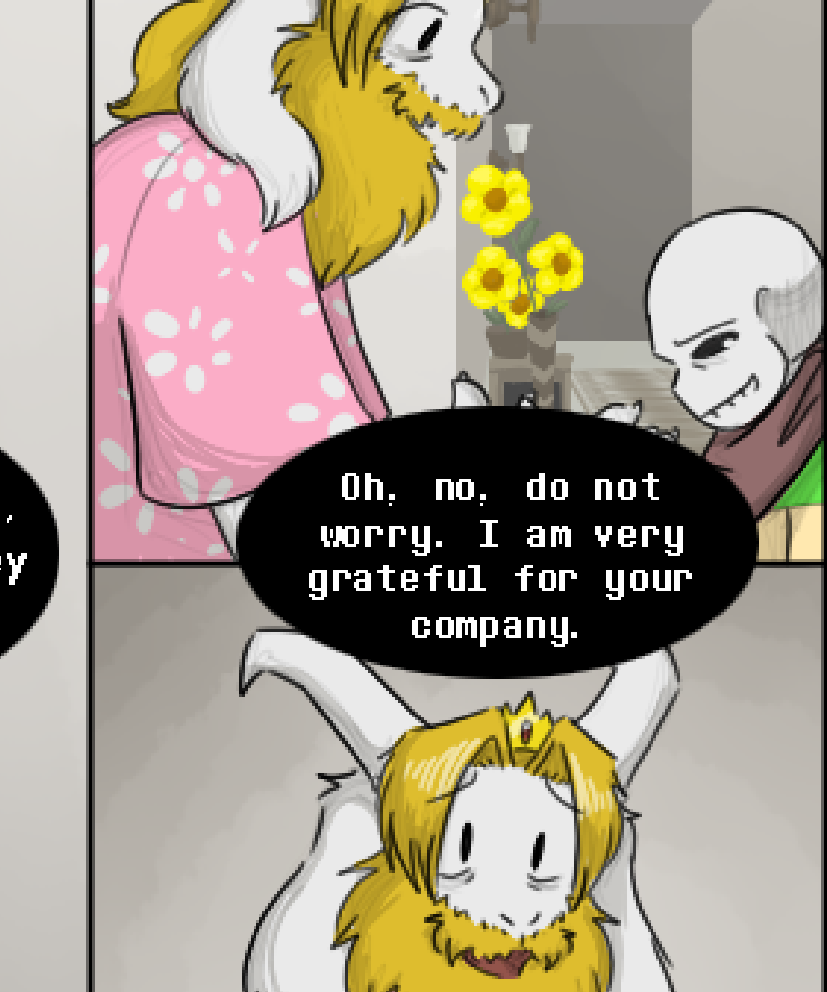


...we
aren't...

making it
worse for you,
are we?

you
know...

bein here,
where they
were...



Oh, no, do not
worry. I am very
grateful for your
company.



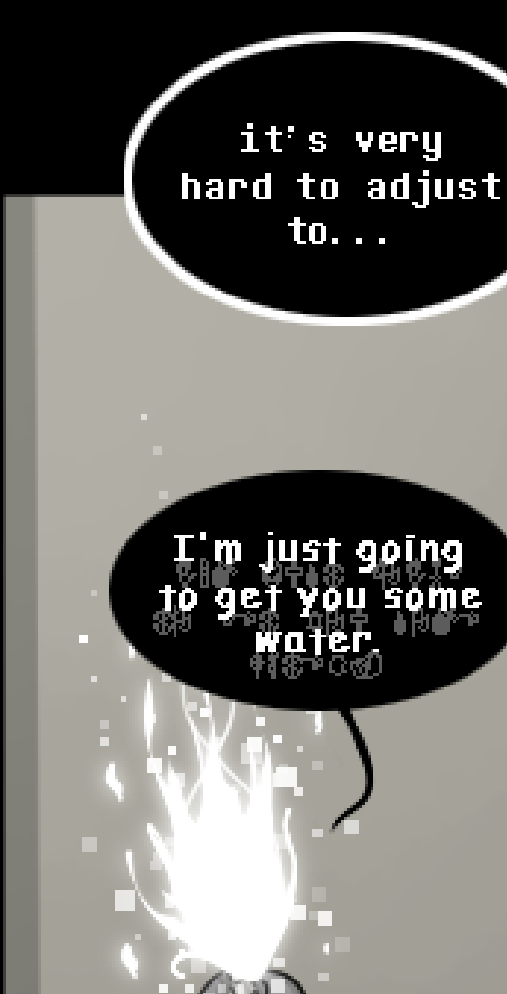
This house
has felt so empty
since my wife
left.



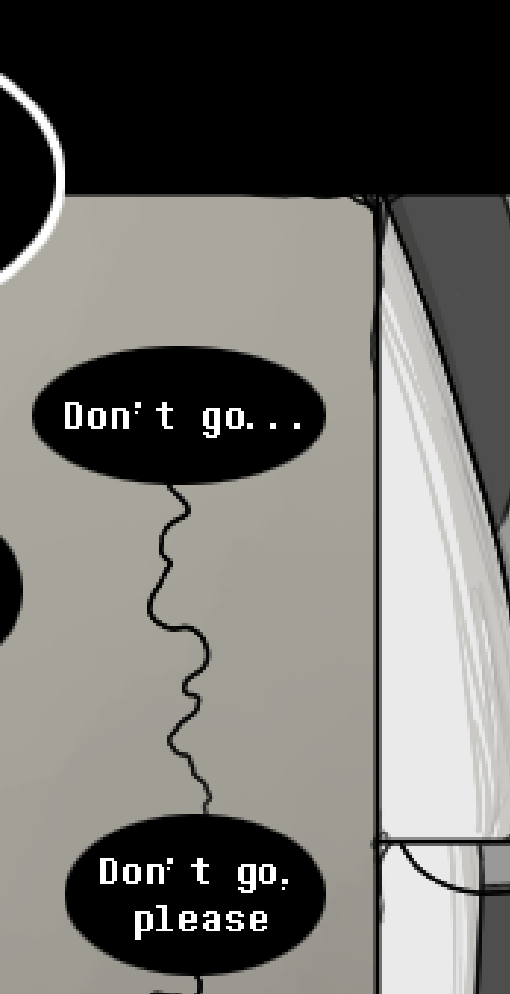
I've had visitors,
of course, but in general
I felt very... alone.



After living
with someone you
love so much for
so long,



it's very
hard to adjust
to...



Don't go...



please don't
leave me...



I'm just going
to get you some
water.

Don't go,
please



I'll only be gone
for a moment. I'll be
right back.

not having them
there any longer.



At times,
I thought the
loneliness...



Ah, but with you two here,
I can remember a little of how
things used to be. It's almost like
she'll come back at any moment, and
things will go back to normal.



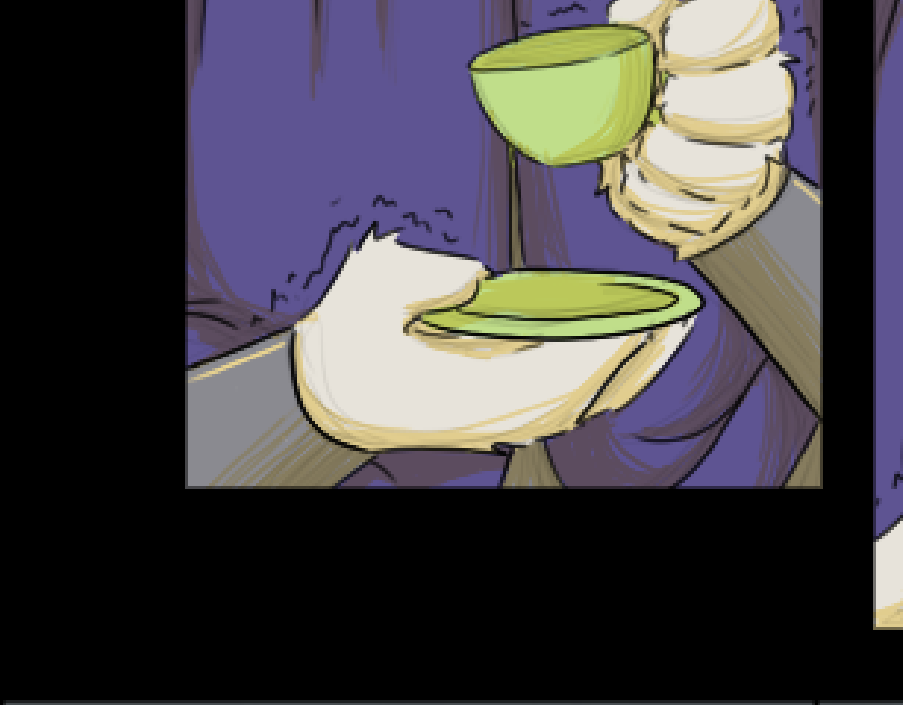
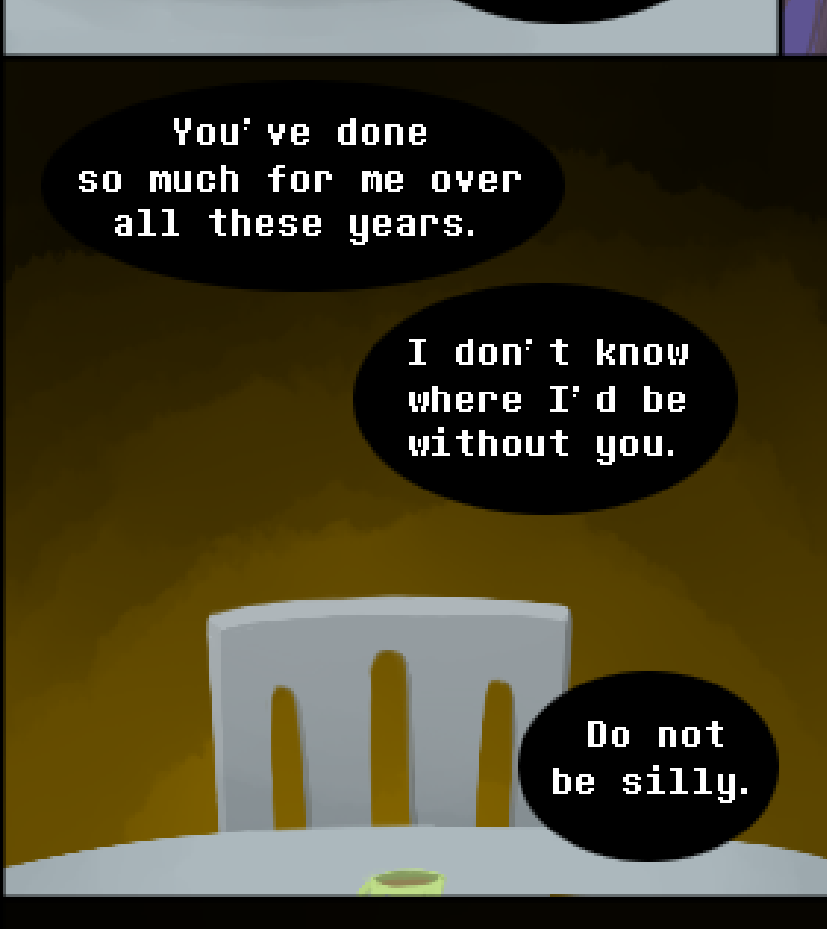
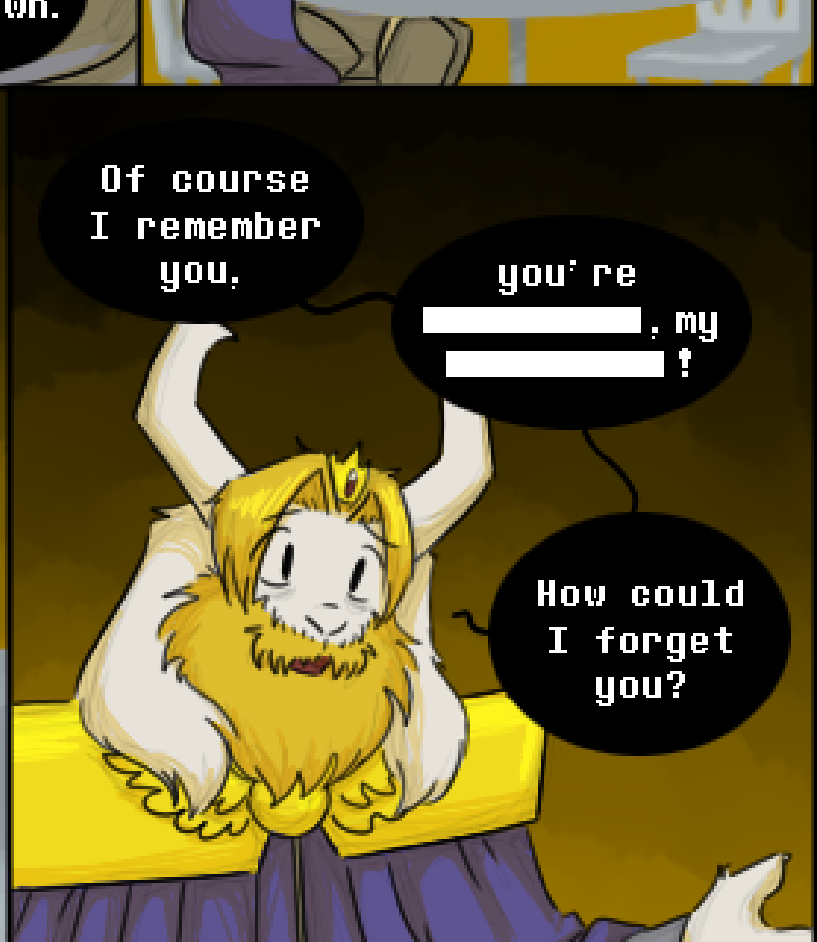
I'm happy to have
you, as long as you are
willing to stay. Do not
worry about such things
any more.



okay...



if you say so...



There's something unusual about these two children.

It's not just that they seem to have sprung into existence out of nowhere, but at times...

SANS! YOU THREW IT ONTO THE ROOF! HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO GET IT NOW!

oops

UGH, I'LL GO GET IT I GUESS!

bro...?

uh...

WHAT?

They can do things,

impossible things,

that I've never seen any other monster do.

man, why is this door always locked...

what's in here, anyway?

i'm dyin to see what's-

woah!

uh...

where am i?

okay...

They don't even seem to think it's odd... it comes naturally to them, unnoticed until it's pointed out.

am i... inside the room?

what's this...?

It's as though some part of them isn't entirely monster, like the rest of us, but something... different.

Something outside the laws of this world.

Are they really skeletons? Monsters?

Where did they really come from?

What ARE they, really?





hey...

when you look at the king, do you...

you know,

see anything weird?



uh, a bunch of hair and fur?

no, i mean...

beyond that.

like...

who he is.

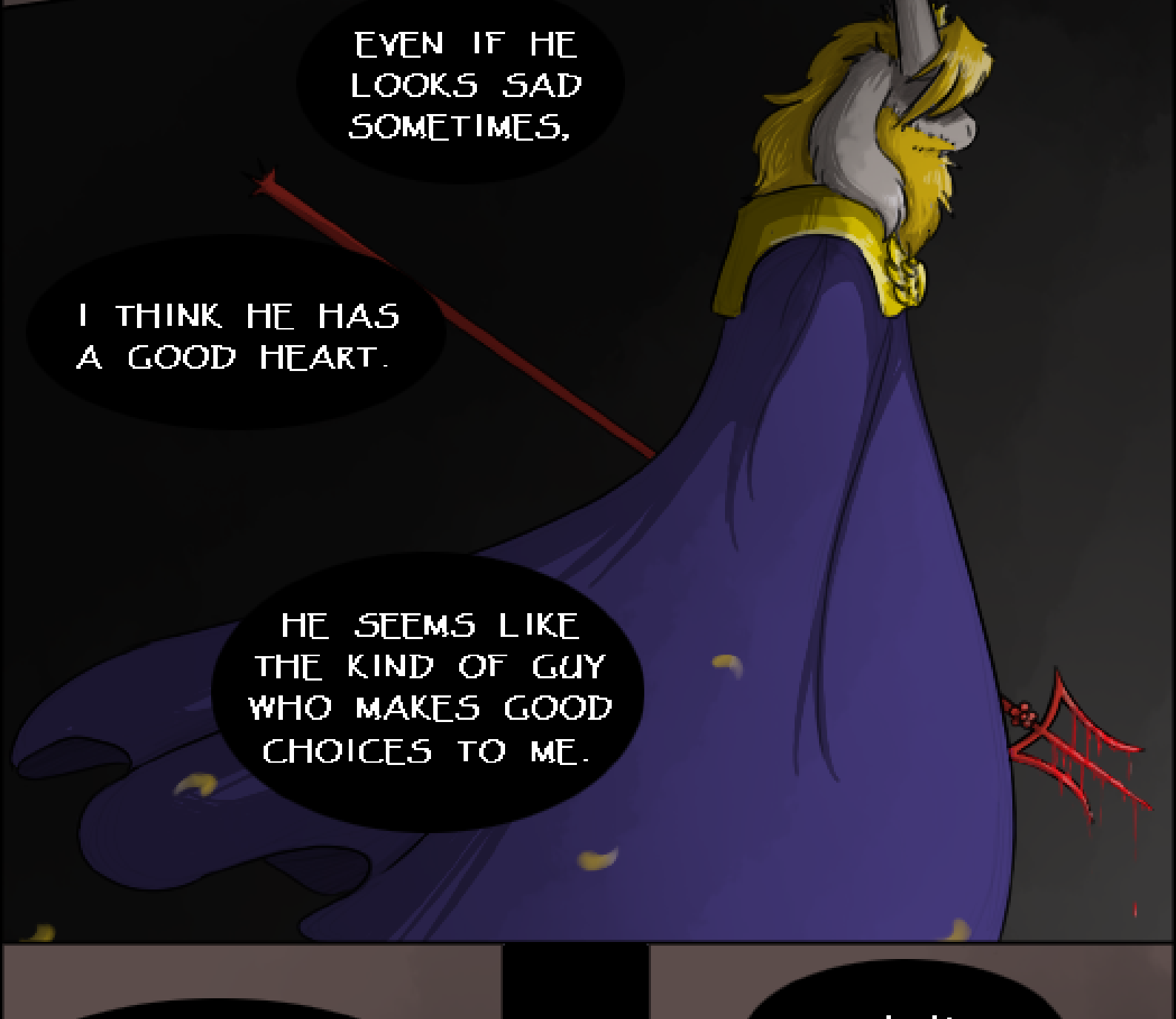
metaphorically.



uh, wow.

um...

i see a good person, i think?



even if he looks sad sometimes,

i think he has a good heart.

he seems like the kind of guy who makes good choices to me.

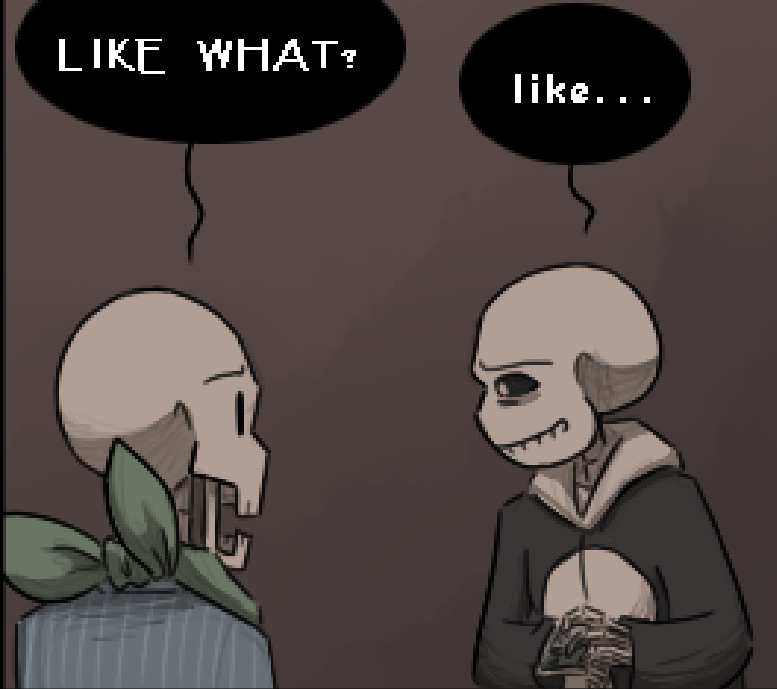


heh, that's what you see in everyone.

but...



you don't see anything else?



like what?

like...



through him,

sort of?



through him?

sans, are you saying you can see the king's bones?

not...

not exactly, but...

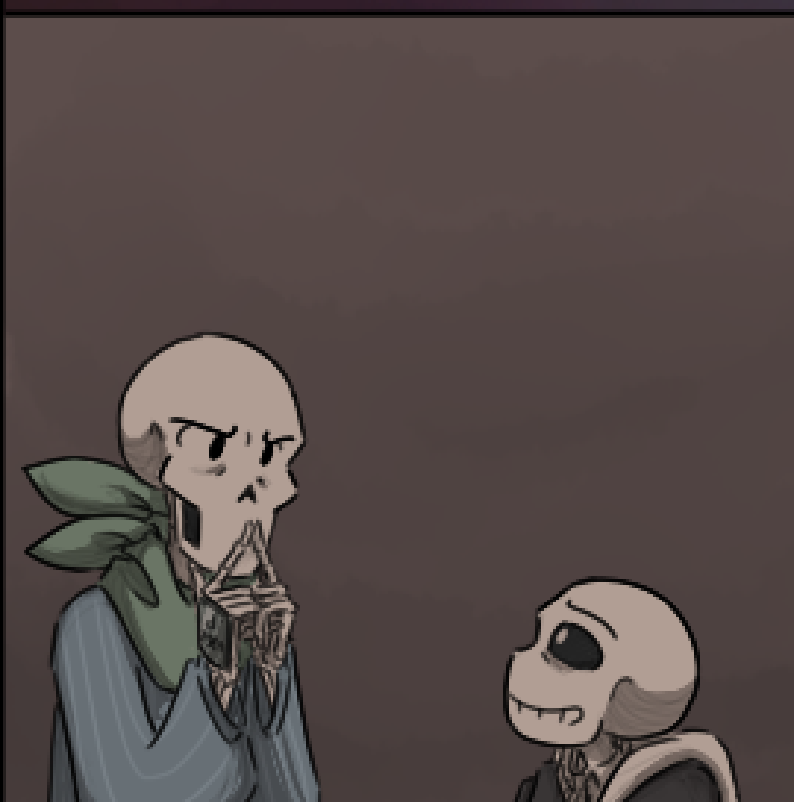


i couldn't see it before, but after that...

thing happened, my chest feels weird and now it sort of feels like, i can see...

what he is.

what makes him up.



no, it's like...

numbers.



...but it's not his bones.



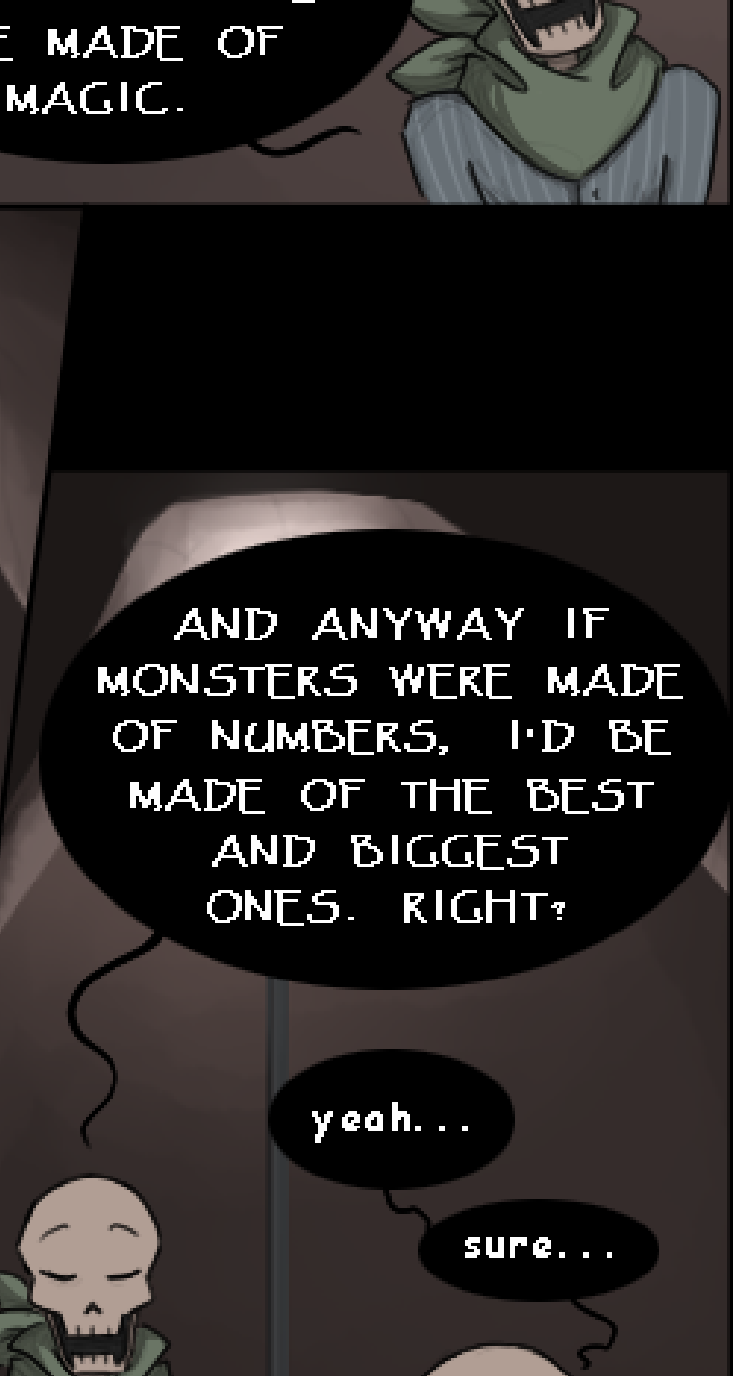
sans, monsters aren't made of numbers. monsters are made of magic.



i know...

i know. maybe it's just me...

never mind.

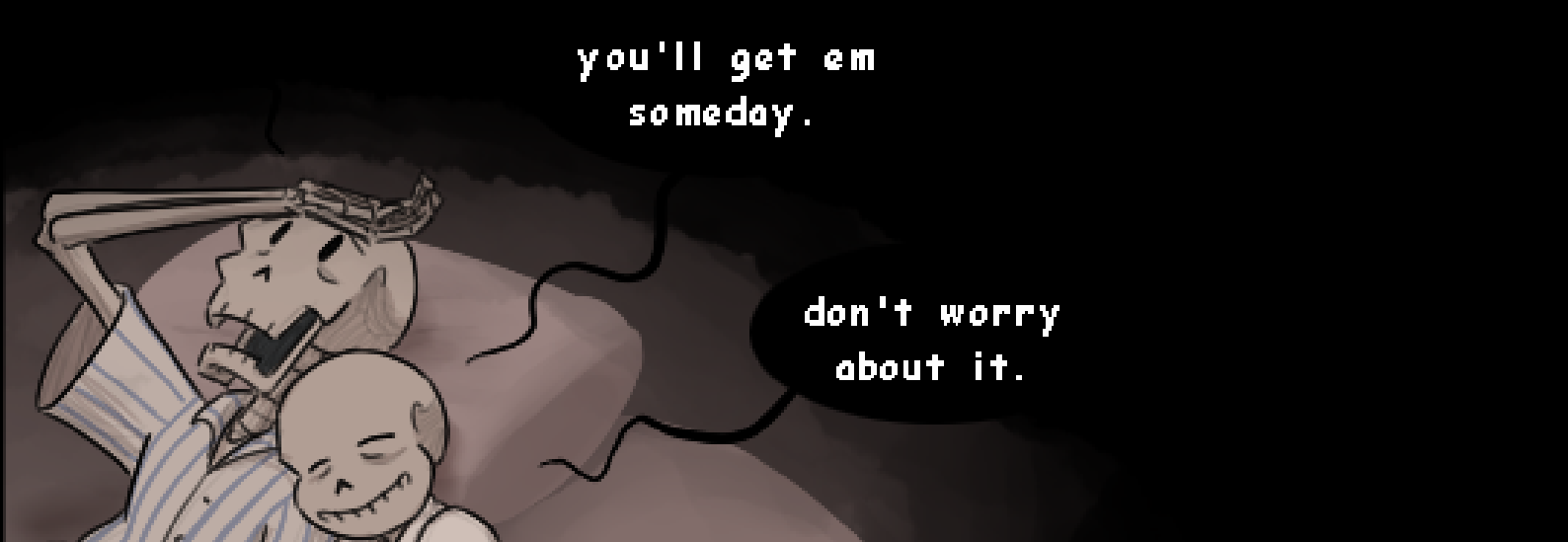
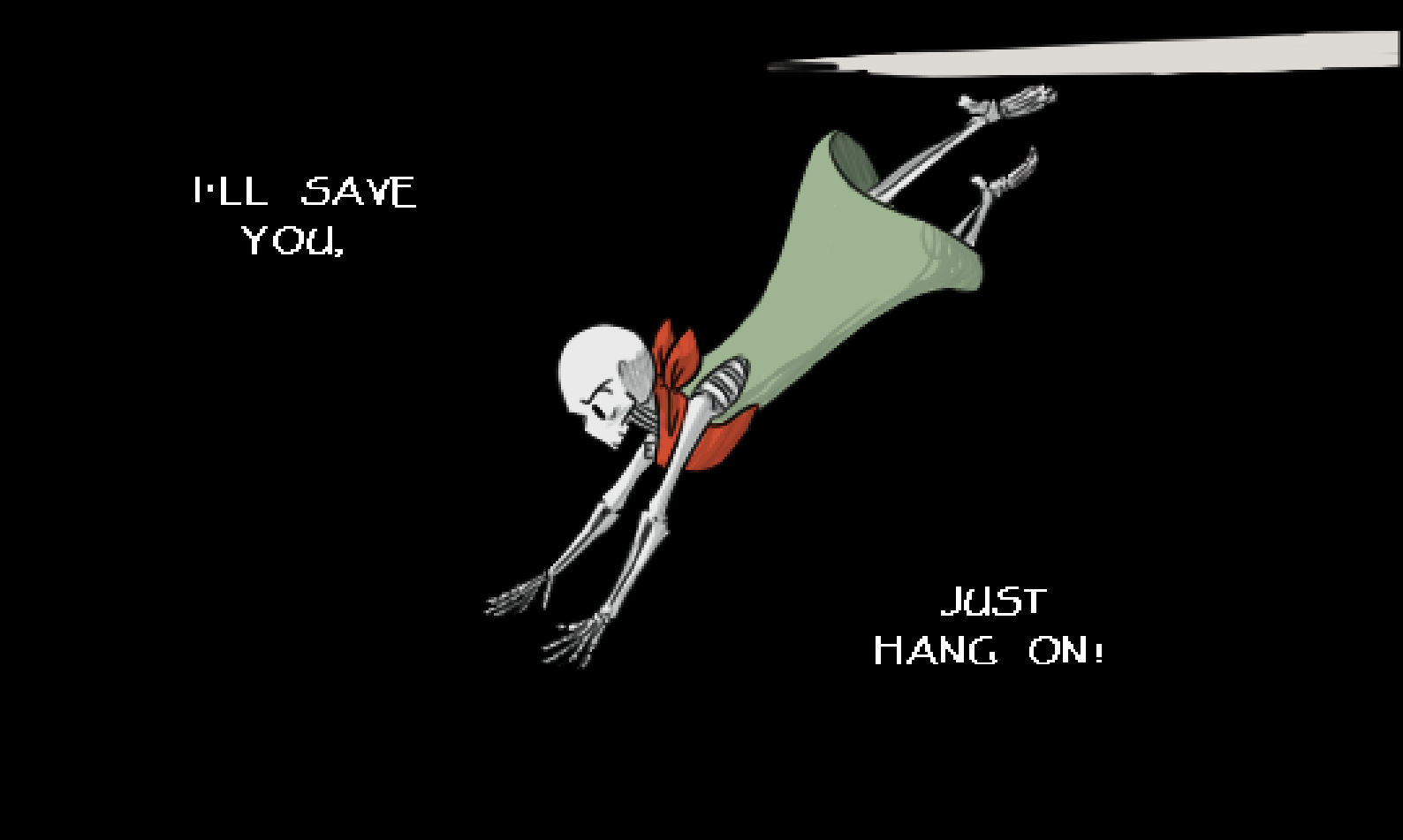
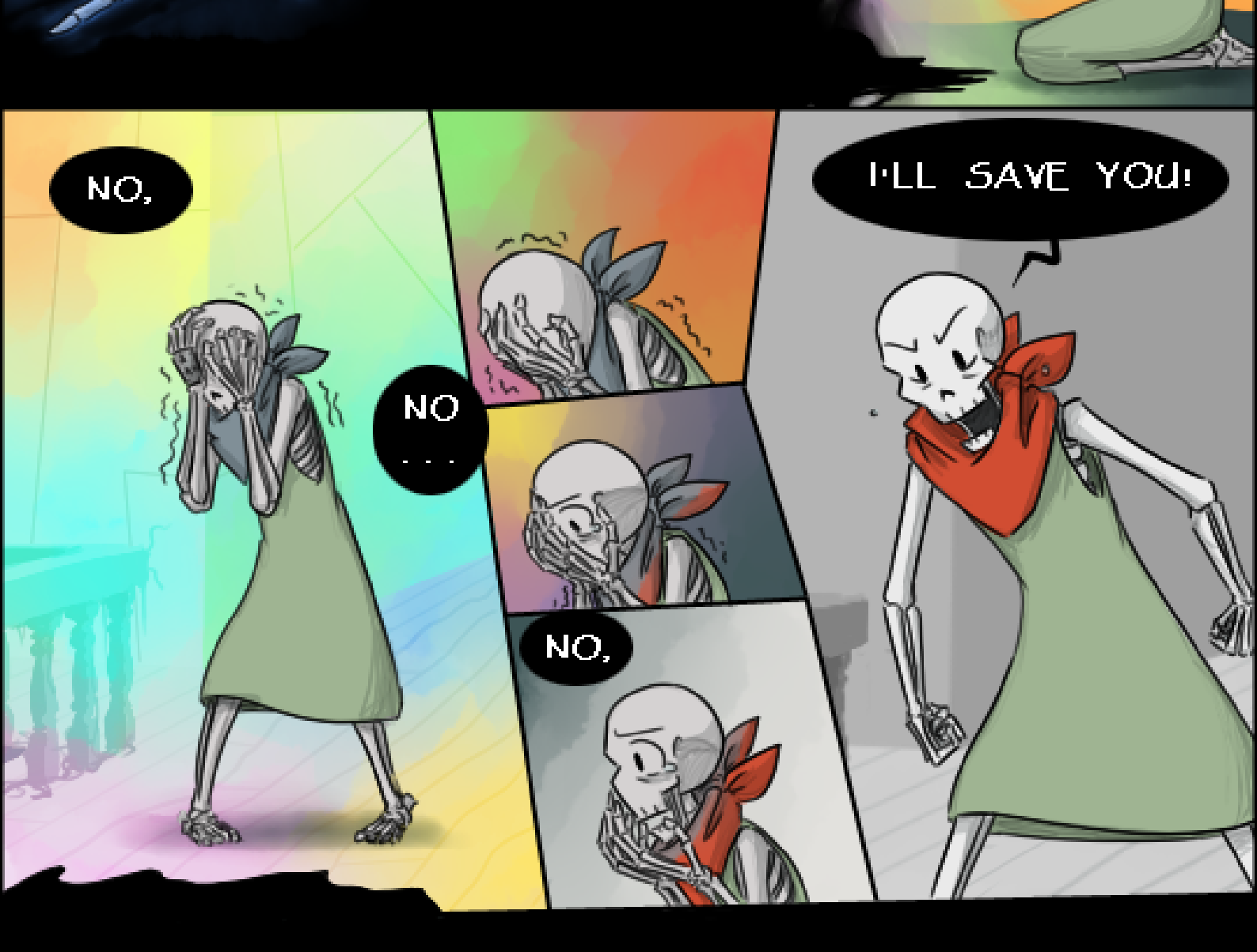
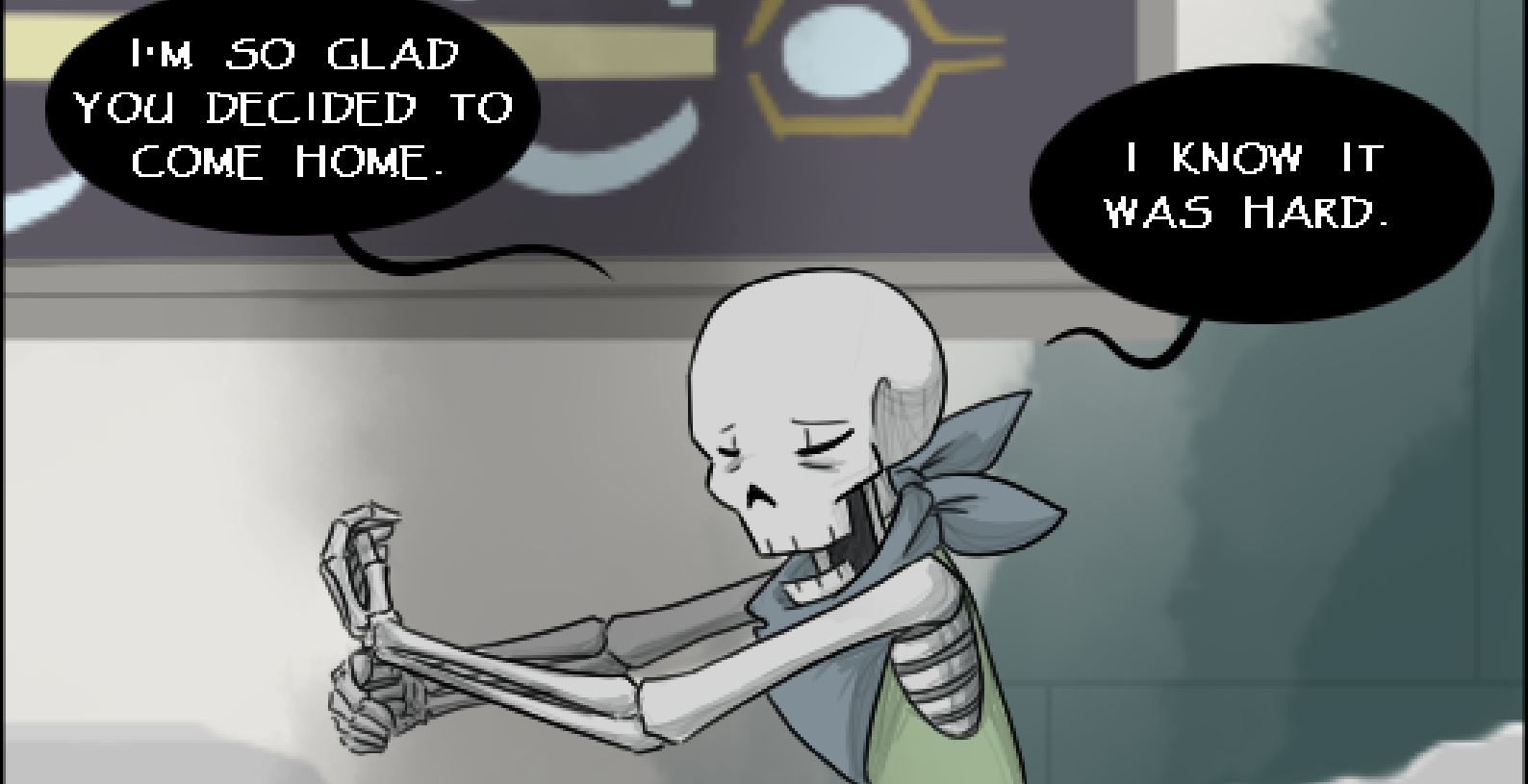
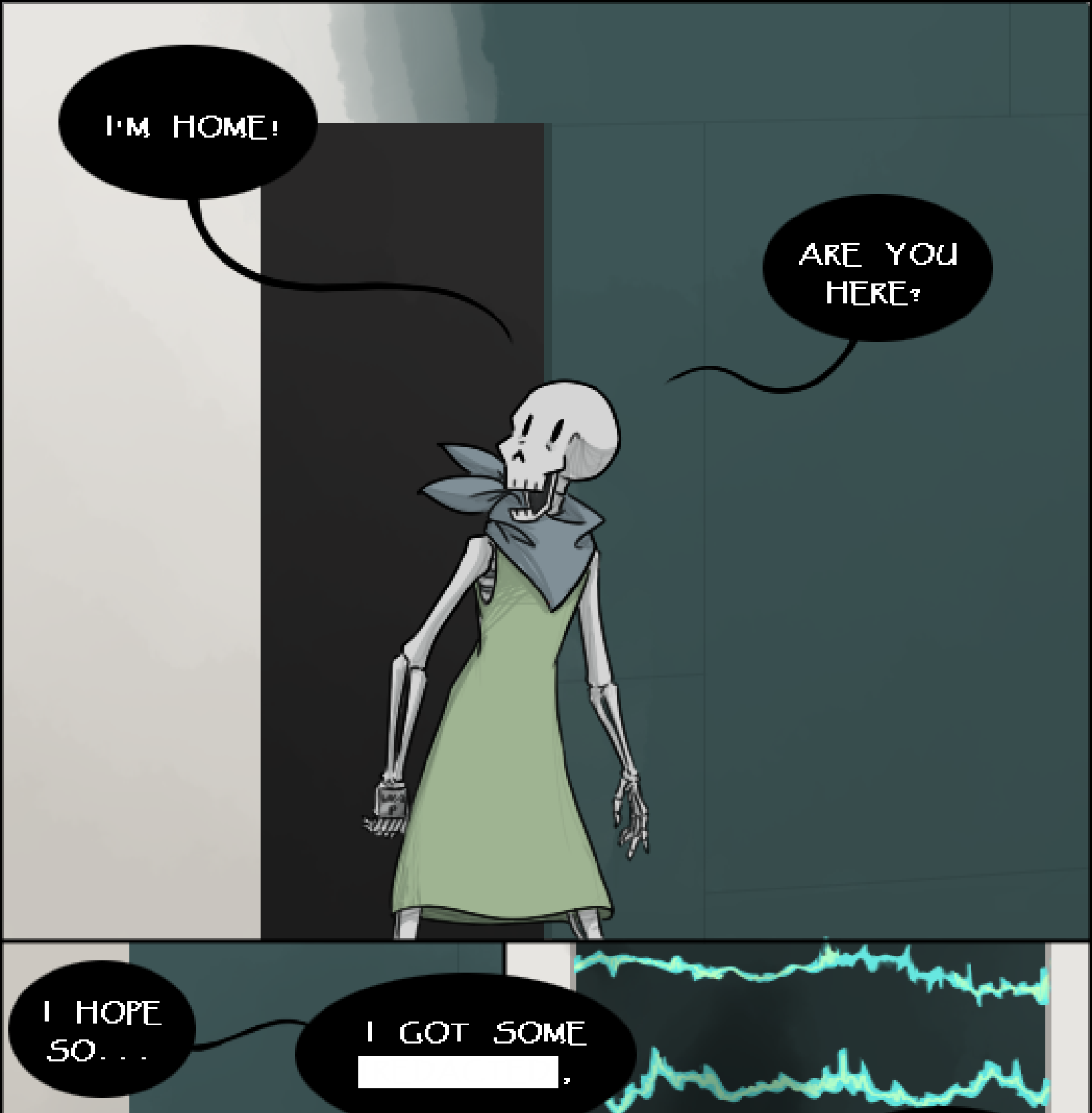


and anyway if monsters were made of numbers, i'd be made of the best and biggest ones. right?

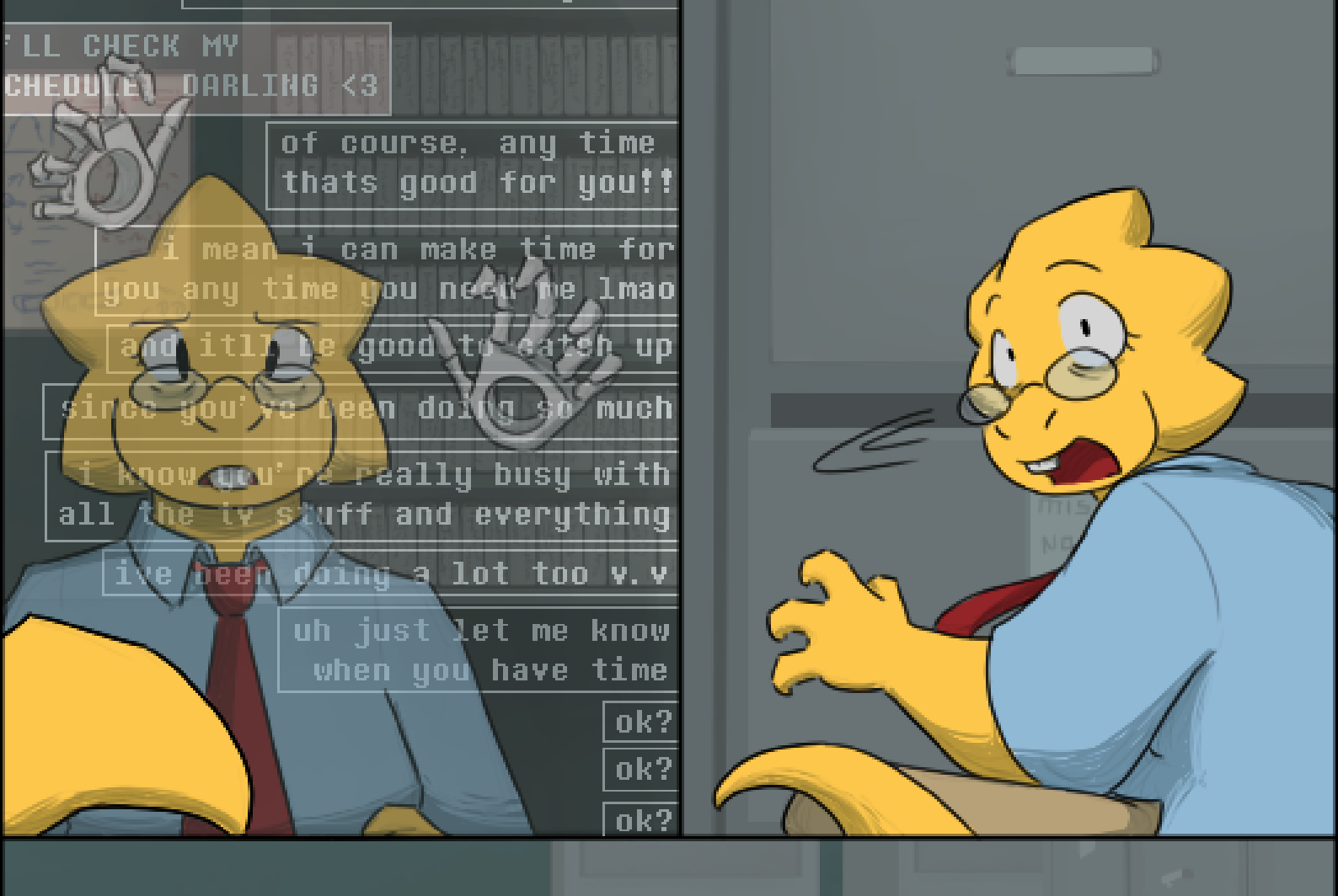
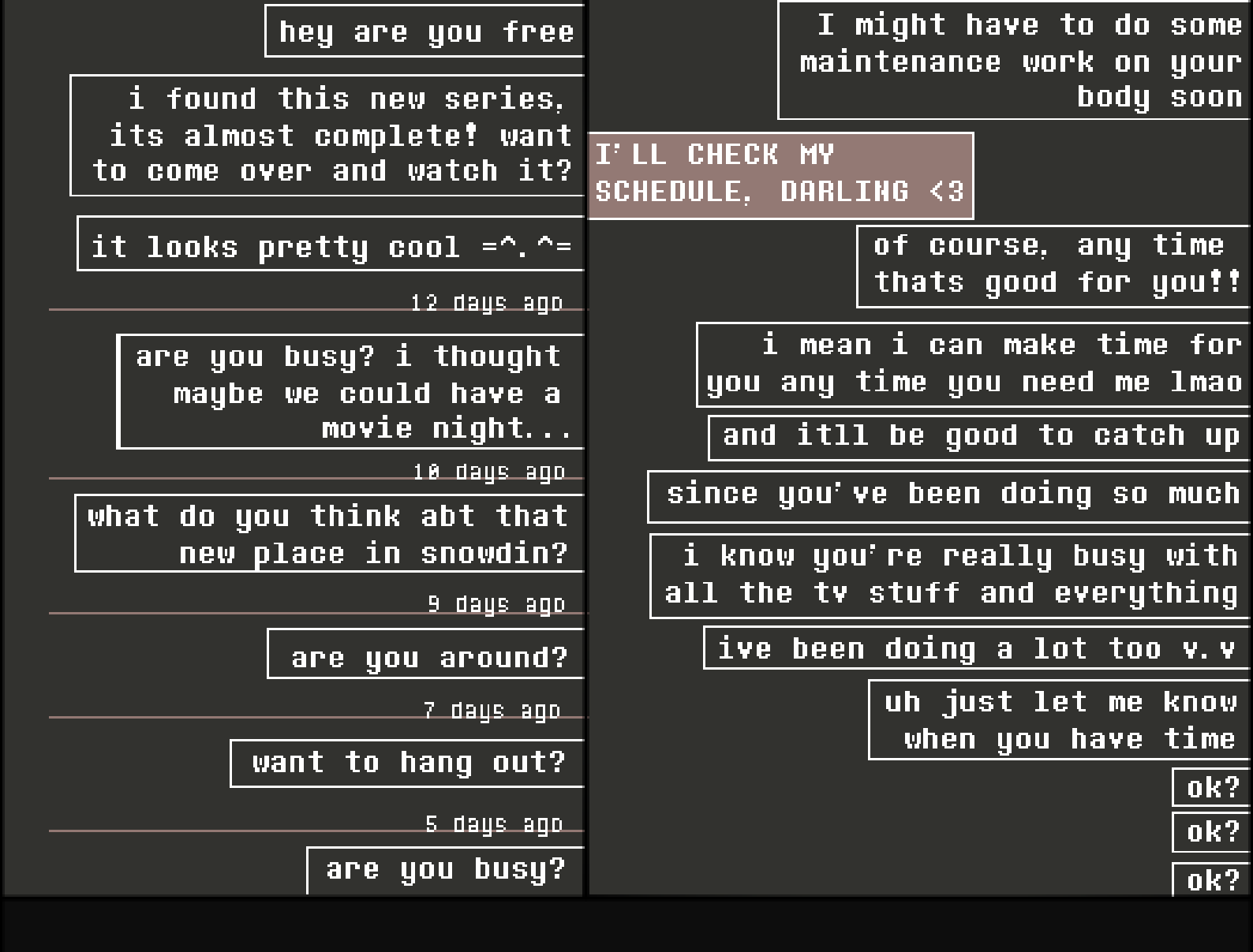
yeah...

sure...









While I do enjoy having the two of them around the house,



I know they must learn the limits of our prison eventually.



I thought at first the smallness of our world would weigh on them,

but instead they find each place enormous and new.



They are enjoying our outings at least, but...

I still don't understand how *nothing* is familiar to them...

how can that even be possible?

If only they could remember more of where they came from!

They're more willing to wander off on their own than they have been in the past, which is good.

They spend so much time together, sometimes I worry that they don't know who they are when they are apart.



Sans seems particularly taken with the hallway outside the throne room...

He was very reluctant to leave after he saw it.



I'll have to take him back again later.

...I did not show them the basement...

...maybe another day.



Today I thought I'd give the two of them a surprise...

it's almost Gyftmas, and I was sure it'd be their first (as far as their memories are concerned)

so I thought I'd make it special for them...



Here we are, little ones,

Snowdin Town!

I'm sure you'll meet someone very special here, in just a moment...

but first, I have to-

SANS...

SANS WHAT'S THE WORD FOR SEEING SOMETHING THAT DIDN'T REALLY HAPPEN AGAIN?

uh, deja vu i think.

I AM VERY DEJA VU RIGHT NOW.

What do you mean...?

SANS...

SANS! SANS THIS IS IT!

Have you two...

hey, wait! where are you going!

SANS, LOOK!

THIS IS IT!

THIS IS OUR HOUSE!

our...

Oh...?

But...

WE HAVE TO GET INSIDE!

HOW DO WE GET INSIDE, IT'S LOCKED!!

Well, it's been abandoned for as long as I can remember... Hmm... it should be...

Yes, there it is.

...How did I...?

SANS, THIS IS IT!

THIS IS REALLY IT!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! AFTER ALL THIS TIME!!

uh, i'm not sayin you're wrong, but, if this place has been abandoned a real long time then...

why is there all this furniture in here?

OH, THERE'S FOOD IN THE FRIDGE EVEN!

I...

I never thought about it.

How that you mention it... that's strange ...

OH, SANS, UPSTAIRS! COME UPSTAIRS!!

SEE, LOOK, THIS HAS TO BE OUR HOUSE! JUST LOOK AT THIS BEAUTIFUL PIECE OF ART!

ONLY SKELETONS COULD APPRECIATE SOMETHING THIS MAGNIFICENT.

i mean... a dog could live here too.

they like bones.

NO, THIS IS OUR HOUSE, I'M SURE OF IT.

...WHAT'S A MEMORY, BUT BACKWARDS?

your riddles are getting really good, bro.

SANS, I'M BEING SERIOUS.

...i know...

...MAYBE THIS WAS WHERE WE USED TO LIVE BEFORE. OK, WHERE WE'RE SUPPOSED TO LIVE FROM NOW ON.

ONE OF THOSE.

I KNOW THIS IS IT. EVERYTHING TELLS ME IT IS.

i mean, sure,

but...

sorta...

live with asgore,

don't we?

kinda,

we...

Children, may I speak with you please...?



Somewhere. I knew this day would come.

I knew that it was all just a fantasy.

Such things are no longer meant for me.

I do not deserve it after what I've done.

My anger.

My cowardice.

Your majesty!

Your majesty...

I heard...

I...

I'm sorry.

I'm so sorry.

There is no justice... only strength.

You said that, when we were first trapped down here.

Your majesty.

Do you still believe that?

what I've seen.

evidence suggests...

it does still hold true.

but...

Asriel told me what happened before he died.

Humans killed him, Gaster.

He didn't even fight back.

All he wanted was to honor a human he loved's dying wish, and now they both are gone.

Humans killed him.

Does that surprise you?

Humans have always been afraid of us rising against them.

Those in power will do anything to keep it.

Gaster.

Yes, your majesty?

Y...

yes, that's what all current knowledge on the nature of soul absorption indicates. But...

Tell me, Gaster...

Do you think we can live in peace with humans?

Tell me honestly.

I...

I don't want you to do anything rash, your majesty.

Do you think peace with humans is possible?

I believe...

that as long as we are trapped down here at their mercy, we can never truly be safe. But, I don't think...

Then, that is it.

There is only one way forward for our race.

Your majesty, if you are thinking of, you are upset, you are not thinking rationally.

I know you don't really want to do this.

this isn't who you are.

I KNOW who I am!

I am the father of two dead children who's lost everything to humans over and over and over again.

my land.

my people.

my home.

my belongings.

my freedom.

my family...

And now it's time for it to end.

Your majesty, please.

you are upset, I know you are angry, but...

if you are thinking of declaring war, it won't.

it's not feasible.

the Queen.

There is no justice.

only strength.

How many more times does this have to happen?

How many more times can we LET this happen?

Please, if you'd just calm down, we can find a solution.

we can figure out what to do.

I...

I'll fix it. I'll find another way.

something else but don't.

don't do this, please don't.

How can you say that.

how can YOU say that to me?

Look me in the eye and tell me you don't want all humans dead, Gaster.

After every they've done to you.

Done to me.

You can't.

You want it just as I do.

I want...

I want to feel like I and my...

the people I care about are safe.

I...

There is no justice.

only strength.

Your majesty...

Asgore, please.

Think about the Queen, she wouldn't want this.

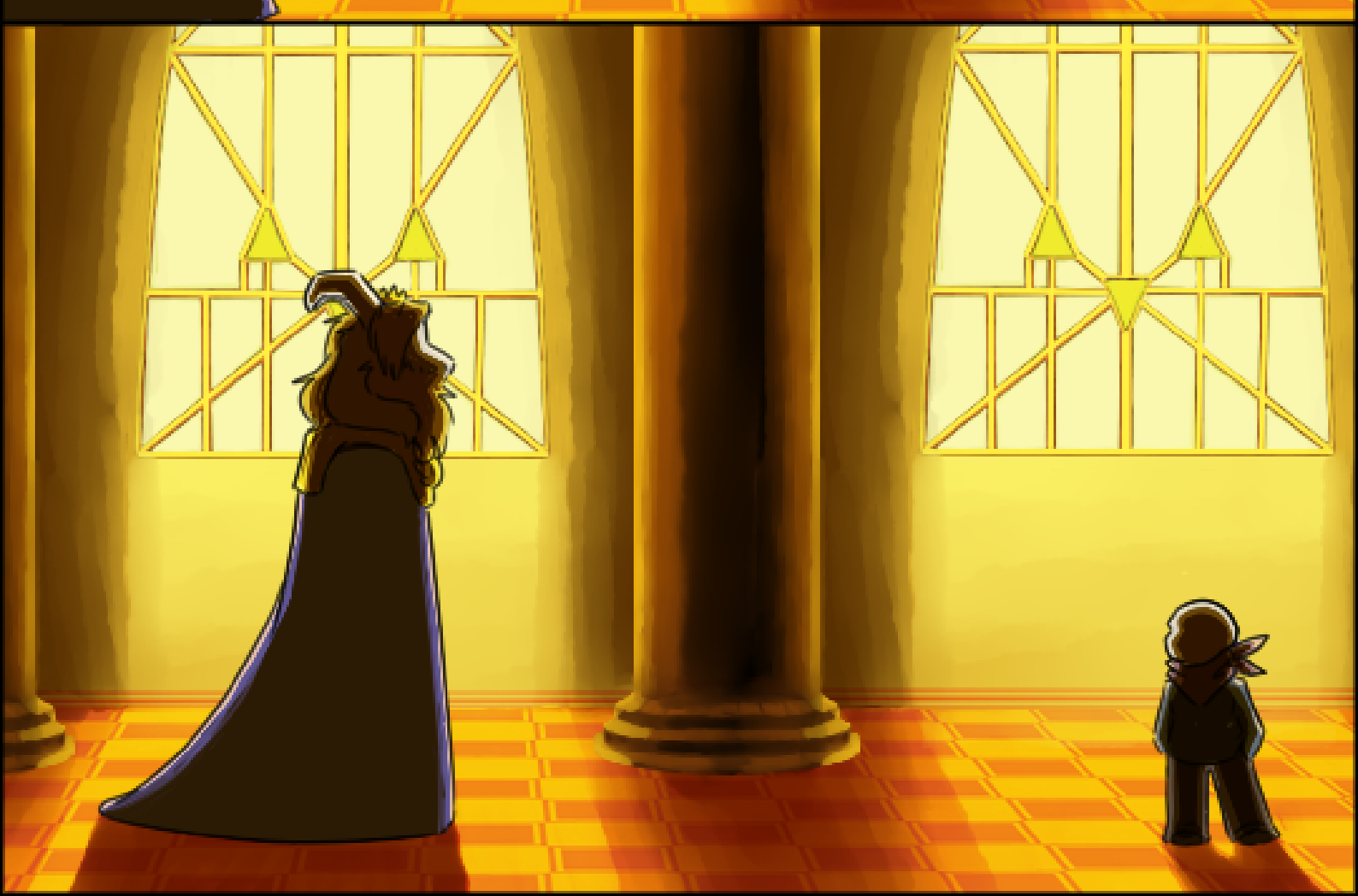
I can't close.

She doesn't want this from you, you know that.

If you give me time, I'll think of a solution.

I'll find some other way, but you must.

I have an announcement to make.











yaya! buy THEM FLAKES!!1 IS 6000 FOR U!!

THEY'RE ON SALE, SANS!

i dunno...

WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS IS?



o!! dis history of tem?

so, what's the history?

rich history, yaya.

is VERY RICH!! an DEEP!! tell yu MANY THNGS about TEMMIE!!1

BUT WHAT IS IT?

is TEM HISTRY!!

...you don't actually know it, do ya?

uuuu...

tem not go to skool yet...

not majr in tem study so dun know historys...

dun have muns...

DON'T WORRY!

WE KNOW EXACTLY HOW YOU FEEL!

uh... do we?

SURE WE DO! WE CAN'T REMEMBER OUR HISTORY EITHER, RIGHT?

... huh.

AT LEAST WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES!

RIGHT, TEMMIE?

fdggdasfgh

DO YOU THINK MAYBE WE HATCHED FROM AN EGG, SANS?

i don't think temmies even hatch from eggs, bro.

egg WIL HATCH!!!

TEM

Mushroom dance

Mushroom dance

Whatever could it mean

It means you have no hyphae to support you.

whats a hyphae?

It means you have no roots.

is E2, jus follow gloing patch n you will find TURTLE SHOP!!

(not as gud as TEM SHOP but, s stil gud,)

THANK YOU! NEXT TIME WE'LL HAVE MORE 'MUNS' FOR YOU!

you see how they talked?

YEAH! I DIDN'T KNOW NORMAL MONSTERS COULD TALK LIKE THAT.

other monsters.

...YEAH, THAT'S WHAT I MEANT.

BUT, THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHERE THEY CAME FROM EITHER! SO, MAYBE WE'RE NOT THAT STRANGE.

maybe...

hey, that must be the turtle shop she was talkin about.



Yup, jus' keep on headin' that way, you'll find the bird you're lookin' for in no time!

Then it'll be a straight shot right to Snowdin. Can't miss it.



thanks, pal, appreciate it.

OH! WAIT! YOU SEEM LIKE YOU KNOW A LOT ABOUT MONSTERS AND HISTORY AND PROPHECIES AND SYMBOLS!

You could say that!

Wa ha ha!



DO YOU KNOW WHAT WDG IS?

Eh?

Let me see that...

WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT IT MEANS! WE JUST WOKE UP WITH THEM ON US.

Yeah, I bet they wouldn't...

yeah, can't remember a thing about 'em. they don't come off though.

what d'you mean you just woke up with these on you?



WE GOT, UM... WHAT'D HE CALL IT?

amnesia.

Huh.

SO, WE CAN'T REMEMBER. UH...

MOSTLY EVERYTHING?

not since we woke up.



BUT, WE'RE TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT IT MEANS! AND WHO PUT THEM THERE! IT MIGHT BE THE SOLUTION TO OUR PUZZLE!

DO YOU KNOW ANY THING ABOUT IT?

...Let me give you kiddos some advice.



What'cha got on your hands there?

That's not normal.

And whoever put those things on you is bad news, I guarantee it.

You're better off not tanglin' with someone who'd do something like that.



SOMETHING LIKE WHAT?

Hmm.

do you know what it means or not?

Mm... like I said... it's nothin' good.

But I don't know what those letters stand for,

if that's what you're askin'.



right. thanks.

comon bro, let's go.



you okay?



... ASGORE LOOKED AT THEM THE SAME WAY.

DO YOU REALLY THINK THEY'RE BAD?

... i ain't seen anyone else who had em.



IT'S NOT THAT WEIRD...

i dunno...

IS IT...?

i dunno.



HE LOOKED AT ME LIKE ASGORE LOOKED AT MY NECK...

comon bro.

we're almost home.



we got more important things to think about, huh?

asgore packed this journal with a note sayin that writin things down can help you figure things out. maybe even helps remember what happened to us. i dont think that's ever gonna happen but its worth a shot i guess.

i asked papyrus if he wanted to do it but he said no. i think writing for too long hurts his eye sockets or somethin. so i guess i'll do it.

we're in the house now. asgore said its been abandoned a long time but it doesn't really feel like it. a few months maybe but not years. there wasn't a lot of food though i guess.

asgore left some money in my bag, so we went out and got some.

everyone here seems real nice so far.

they all talk the same. me and papyrus are the only ones that look different.

we've been goin through all the stuff here. papyrus is having fun cleaning the place. whoever lived here had so many mugs.

they also had a lot of scarves, that made papyrus happy.

he really likes this old red one.

it's a good color on him.

papyrus also found these things you can put on to cover your hands. gloves i think.

so he's been wearing those a lot lately.

there's a lot of papers here. what i can read seems pretty technical.

there's a lot of journals of monster science or something, tons of em and they all look the same even though they're dated differently, and they're total gibberish.

mostly it sounds like someone asking someone else for money, but in really fancy ways.

maybe whoever lived here collected them? they take up a ton of space so i think we're just gonna toss em.

there are some cool looking books here though. i definitely want to read those.

there was this weird machine in the bed room that's connected to the wall and its got a lot of buttons. not sure what that thing does. i bet there's directions for it around here somewhere.

the other room was just full of broken junk.

so we've been tossing that out, but there's a lot of it.

it smells like smoke in here. papyrus says it makes him feel tense, but in a good way? i just feel tense, but it does smell familiar.

papyrus was right, this is our house.

i didn't even need to see myself either. i'm not sure exactly when i knew... maybe when he did.

but last night when we were fallin asleep it really felt real.

we've cleared out enough stuff that there's finally starting to be room for us.

how it's supposed to be.

that sounds dumb.

this journal thing will never work.



Thank you for coming, Dr. Alphys.

Are you doing well?

U-uh... y-yeah, I-I'm fine... um, Mettaton's really... doing well...

Yes, I've noticed. I'm glad for his success and yours.

Yeah...

mine...

...I don't want to put pressure on you, particularly if you already have projects that you're working on.

but I would like to make a request.

O-oh, y-yeah, sure, anything you want, I m-mean...

y-you're the king, haha...

ha...

...I've been thinking about the Barrier, and the plan.

Oh... oh, yeah... the seven SOULs...

yeah...

Admittedly, I am not a scientist, but... how much research have you done on a human SOUL, Dr. Alphys?

U-uh... all the SOULs always go to you...

I-I don't remember...

I know it may be futile, but...

if I lent you the human SOULs...

do you think you could find some other way to pass the Barrier?

A way that won't involve me...

You... you'd let me...?

I trust you, Dr. Alphys.

I... I mean... s-some of the plans I-I've found...

I've... uh, I mean, I've...

the plans I-I've been working on, uh...

they do, um...

speculate about...

the properties of human SOULs, and...

uh, there are...

uh, theories, that I could...

um, explore, if I had real SOULs to work with,

b-but, I can't...

I c-can't promise that I'll...

I am willing to do anything at this point to find another solution.

I don't want...

to continue this path...

unless I have to.

...Did something happen?

I've just... been thinking a lot lately.

U-well...

I'll see what I can do...

So here's the prototype

It should be able to safely store and protect a SOUL without any danger of absorption

When a human falls, this should keep the SOUL stable until the appropriate time

Mm...

Gaster... what will happen to me when I absorb all seven SOULs?

It's difficult to say.

There's very little surviving information on the process, there is a chance that the seven SOULs you take may live on within you

Previous records of SOUL absorption seem to indicate that the monster maintains ultimate control in these scenarios, but absorption of this scale and magnitude,

It's...

I...

I know you want answers, but...

it's difficult to say at this point

Gaster...

If I go through with this...

change...

will you stay with me?

Until the end?

lose myself?

Even if I destroy every thing...?

There is nothing you could do that would make me leave your side

As long as you will have me, I will stay

Thank you...

thank you.

asgore came by to see how we were doing. he liked the lights outside a lot.

he couldn't stay too long cause he had some kind of thing to do at the local school or something.

it sounds kinda boring, but papyrus thinks we should go since we haven't hung out with asgore in a while, and he's probably right.

i can work on this computer thing some more later.



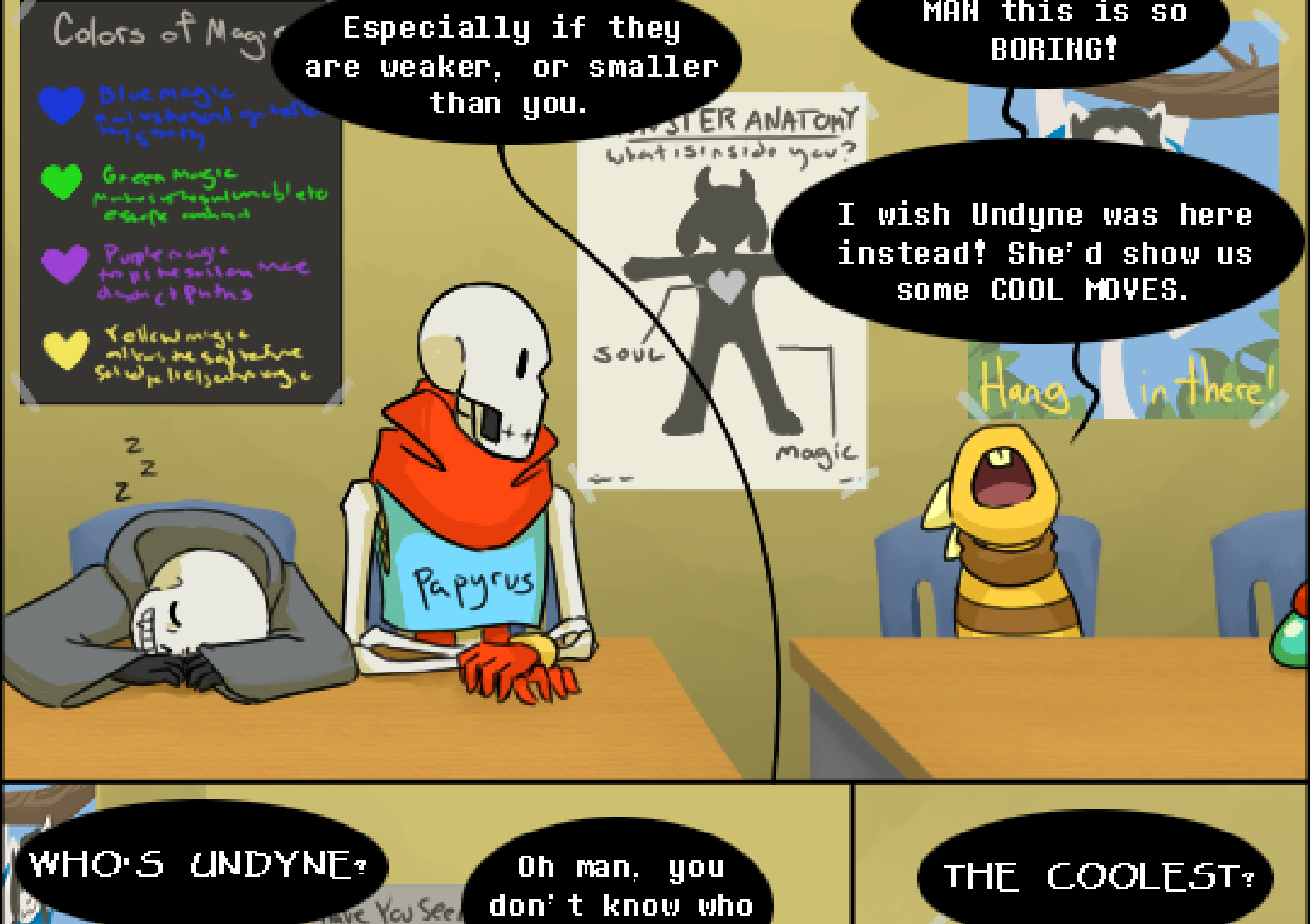
Now, responsibility means that whenever you make a decision, you must accept the consequences of that decision. Even if those consequences are good or bad.

And it also means that when you are trusted to take care of something, like these flowers...



or someone you care about...

that you do every thing in your power to take care of that someone.



Especially if they are weaker, or smaller than you.

MAN this is so BORING!

I wish Undyne was here instead! She'd show us some COOL MOVES.



WHO'S UNDYNE?

Oh man, you don't know who Undyne is?

She's only the coolest person in the whole Underground!

THE COOLEST?



Yeah!! There's no one cooler than her!

And she's the STRONGEST too!

She goes around beating up bad guys, and she NEVER loses!

HOW DID SHE BECOME SO COOL?

UH, I'M ASKING, FOR A FRIEND.



Uh, jeez!

She's just always been that cool!

She's been the head of the Royal Guard for as long as I can remember!

Longer than I've been alive, even!!

THE ROYAL GUARD?



Yeah, they help the King look out for humans! They're the strongest and coolest guys in the whole Underground, and Undyne is the coolest and strongest of them all!

No one gets to be a Royal Guard unless she says so!!

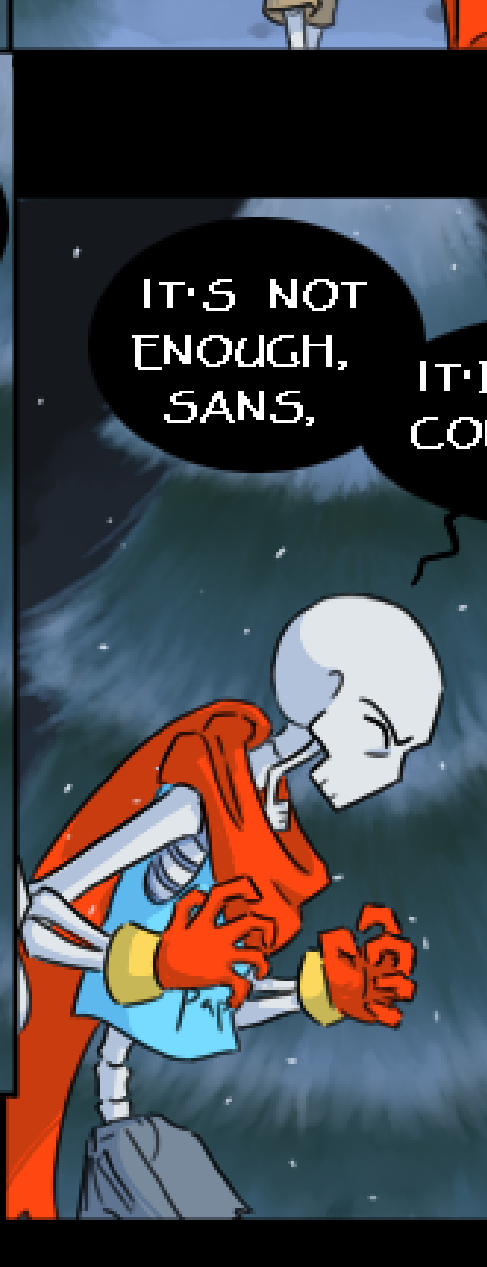
Excuse me, please...



SORRY MR DREEMURR.

But man, if you ever meet Undyne, you'll see what I mean!







...I'M SORRY.

...what for?

I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU AREN'T WORTH SOMETHING. YOU'RE THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN THE WORLD TO ME! YOU'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN ME...

but i'm not enough.

IT...

i'm not.

that's the long and short of it.

heh.

the me and you of it, huh.

...I'M SORRY, SANS.

...I'M SORRY I'M LIKE THIS.

you are what you are.

and i am what i am.

just gotta accept it.

I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU.

what is it you want that i can't do?

might help us figure out what to do about it.

I WANT THEM TO SEE WHAT YOU SEE. I WANT THEM TO LOVE ME. I WANT THEM TO BE PROUD OF ME AND LOOK UP TO ME

AND SAY I'M GOOD, THAT I'M SMART AND CLEVER AND GOOD. AND THEY'LL GIVE ME HUGS AND KISSES AND ALL THE THINGS PEOPLE WHO ARE GOOD GET, AND...

who's "they"

I...

I DON'T KNOW.

EVERYONE I GUESS.

you think joinin the royal guard will do that?

ok, so, how do you join? who's the leader of these guards anyway?

EVERYONE THINKS THE ROYAL GUARD IS REALLY COOL. I HEARD IT FROM A VERY RELIABLE SOURCE. SO IF I BECOME A ROYAL GUARD, THEN I'LL BECOME COOL MYSELF.

IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE.

SOMEONE NAMED UNDYNE.

I THINK SHE LIVES IN WATERFALL.

why don't we ask her to let you in?

YEAH...

SANS, ARE YOU OKAY?

proably won't be that easy, but it's worth a shot.

heh, you know me. i'm always okay.

NO YOU'RE NOT.

I CAN TELL.

i just want you to be happy.

that's all.

WHY?

cause you deserve to be happy? duh.

AND WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU DON'T?

I SAW THAT, YOU HESITATED!

YOU HESITATED, DO YOU NOT THINK YOU DON'T DESERVE TO NOT... WAIT...

DO YOU NOT NOT... UGH!

YOU DESERVE TO BE HAPPY TOO, SANS!

I WANT YOU TO BE HAPPY!

im happy when you're happy. problem solved, huh?

BUT...

look, if you want to make it up to me then just... drop it.

we both got somethin wrong with us, big deal.

that's life. can't do anythin about it.

but we can do somethin about this guard thing. so let's do that.

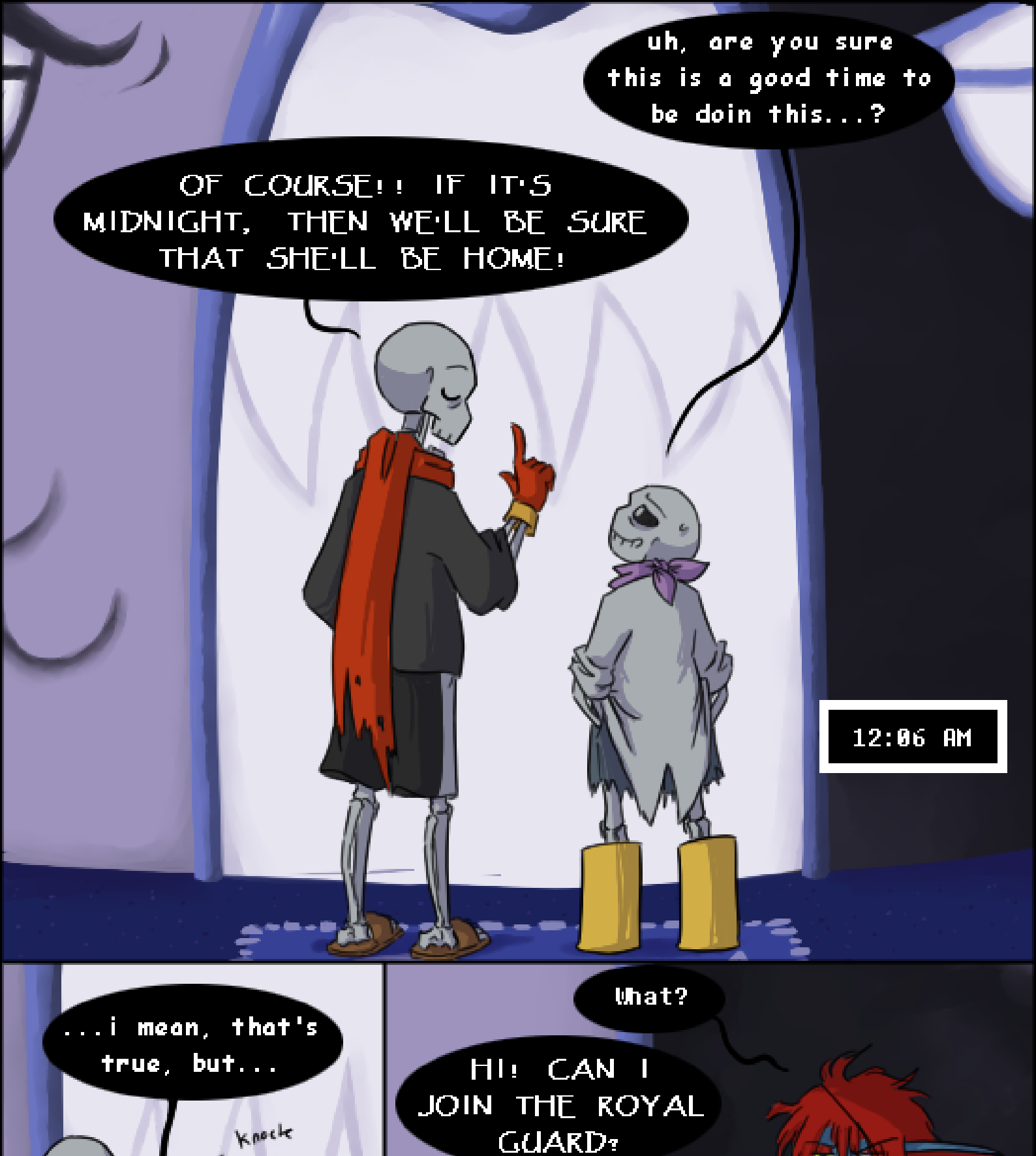
SANS...

just forget it, okay?

cmon, you got coolness to achieve.

FINE.

BUT I'M NOT GOING TO FORGET.



uh, are you sure this is a good time to be doing this...?

OF COURSE!! IF IT'S MIDNIGHT, THEN WE'LL BE SURE THAT SHE'LL BE HOME!

12:06 AM



...i mean, that's true, but...

Knock Knock



What?

HI! CAN I JOIN THE ROYAL GUARD?

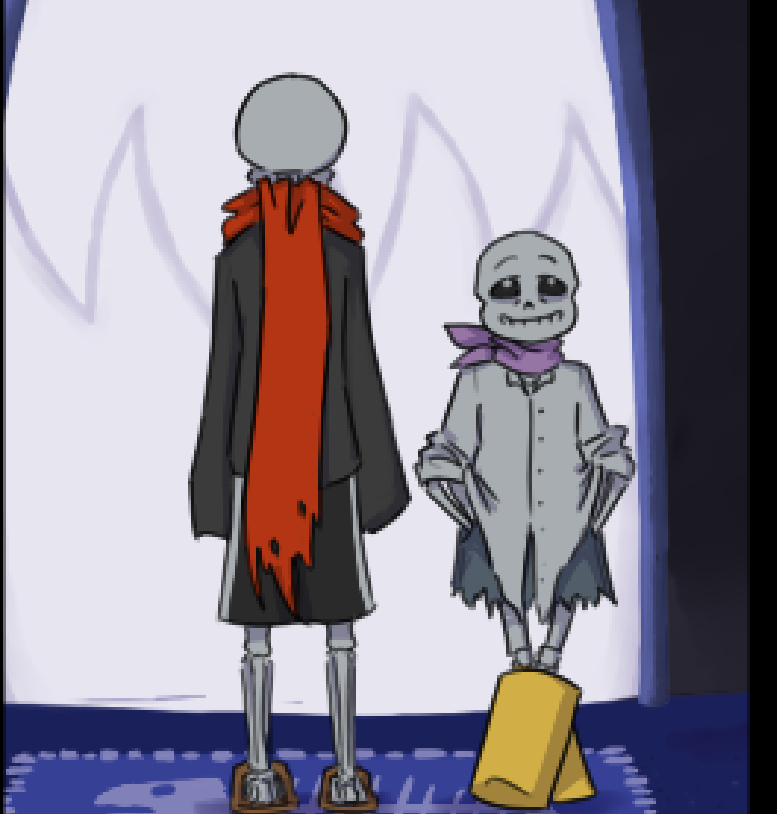


SHE MUST BE GOING TO GET SOME PAPERS FOR ME TO SIGN OR SOME THING.



uh, maybe. you know, we could come back later...

NO. SHE'LL BE BACK ANY MINUTE. SANS! WE JUST HAVE TO BE PATIENT!



12:12 AM



1:16 AM



just gonna, throw this out there, but...

you seem to have this under control, so... you mind if i head home and take a nap?



SANS! ARE YOU TIRED ALREADY??



you know me.

i'll come back and check on you later, huh?

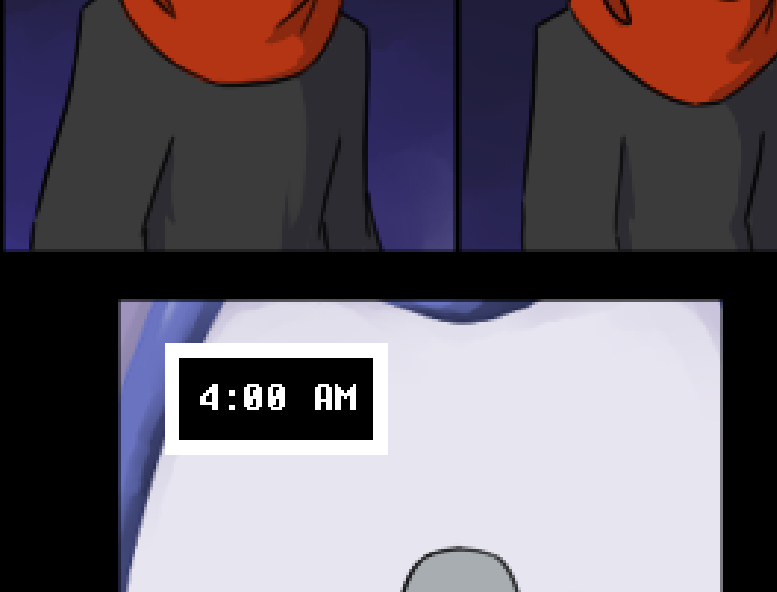


...FINE!

EVEN YOUR PERPETUAL EXHAUSTION WON'T BUDGE MY FAITH THAT SHE WILL OPEN THE DOOR AGAIN ANY SECOND!



hang in there, bro.



4:00 AM



8:24 AM



Are you seriously still here?

ABSOLUTELY! I CAN'T LEAVE BEFORE YOU GIVE ME AN ANSWER!



Wait, have you been standing here all night?

HAVEN'T MOVED A MUSCLE, WHICH I DO NOT HAVE!



... Well, you sure are determined, I'll give you that. Why do you want to join the Guard anyway?



TO BE POPULAR!



Well, not like any of the dogs have a better reason.



You think you got what it takes?

YES! WHATEVER IT IS,



I'LL GO GET IT FOR YOU RIGHT AWAY!

No, I meant...

whatever. What's your name?



PAPYRUS!



Alright then, Papyrus.

Let's see what you can do.





Wow, you're actually pretty good, Papyrus.

REALLY?

Actually... make that REALLY good.

Where'd you learn to fight like this?

THE KING TAUGHT ME!

Asgore did...?

Heh, you know, I tried to take him down myself too? But I couldn't land a hit on him.

YES, THAT HAPPENED TO ME TOO! WOW!

Anyway, you've definitely got the skills to be in the Guard... and you can take a hit too, so that's good.

But before I let you in, I gotta know what's in your heart.

I DON'T HAVE A HEART, ACTUALLY.

No, like... what makes your blood boil? You know, your guts?

I DON'T HAVE THOSE EITHER!

No- okay. What do you want more than anything, Papyrus?

LOVE AND AFFECTION!

...I was looking for justice, but, okay. If you're a Royal Guard, people are going to be counting on you to protect them? What are you going to do if a human falls down here? If a human was coming right at you, what would you do?

Humans don't have bullet patterns, Papyrus.

UH, I'D ENGAGE THEM IN COMBAT TO SEE THEIR BULLET PATTERNS!

REALLY? HOW DO THEY SPAR THEN?

They just use their FISTS!! What are you gonna do if a human comes at you with their fists, Papyrus!!

UH, I'D TRY NOT TO GET HIT WITH THEIR FISTS!!

I'D USE MY MAGIC TO STOP THEM!

Okay, then-

THEN AFTER WE'RE DONE I'D ASK THEM WHAT THEY THOUGHT OF MY PATTERNS! I'VE BEEN CALIBRATING THEM FOR ULTIMATE FRIEND POTENTIAL.

You don't want to make friends with a human, Papyrus.

WHY NOT?

...Do you know what the Royal Guard does?

COOL AND POPULAR THINGS!

...Can you give me a minute?

Jeez... jeez, this guy.

He's gonna get eaten alive...

Uh, so, I just checked our, uh... papers??

And, uh, we don't have any positions open right now, but!

But! The minute something opens up, I'll call you, okay? You're at the top of my list! I promise!

But, uh, in the meantime, why don't you, uh...

come over anyway!!

And, I'll... give you lessons!

LESSONS?

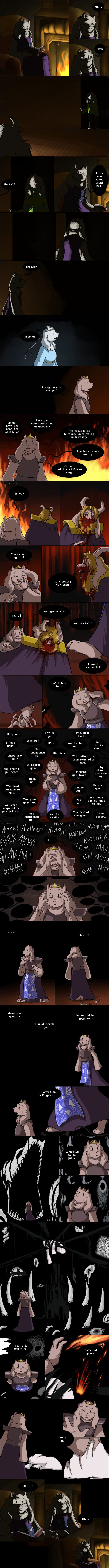
cooking lessons?

All great warriors need to know how to cook!

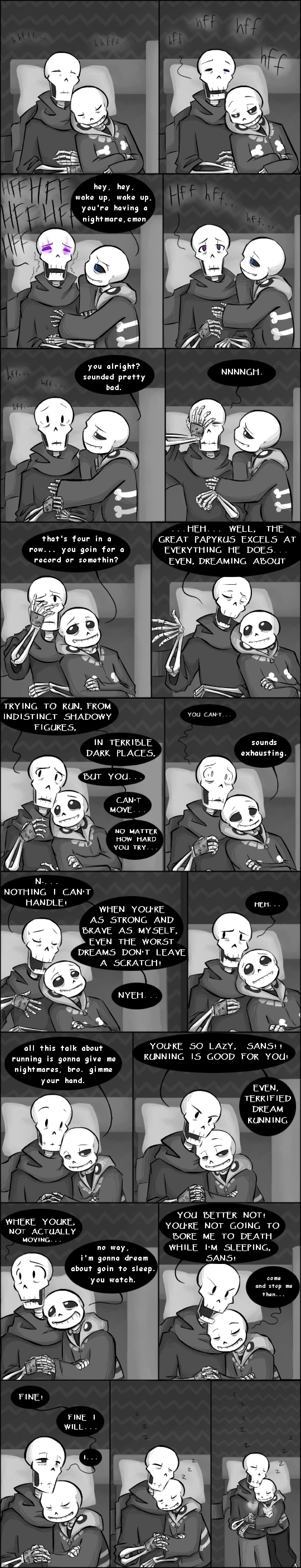
How about that? Do you like cooking?

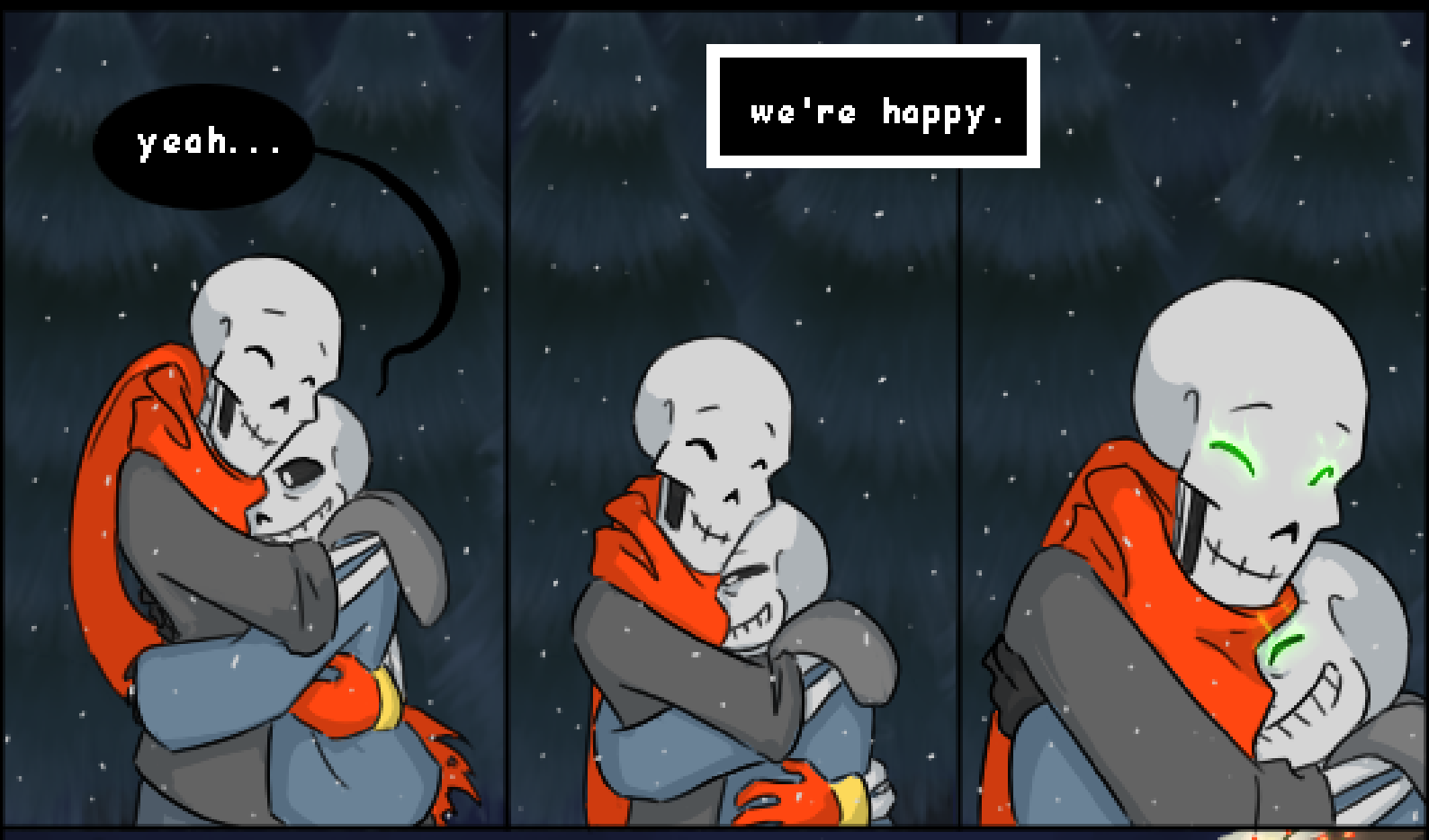
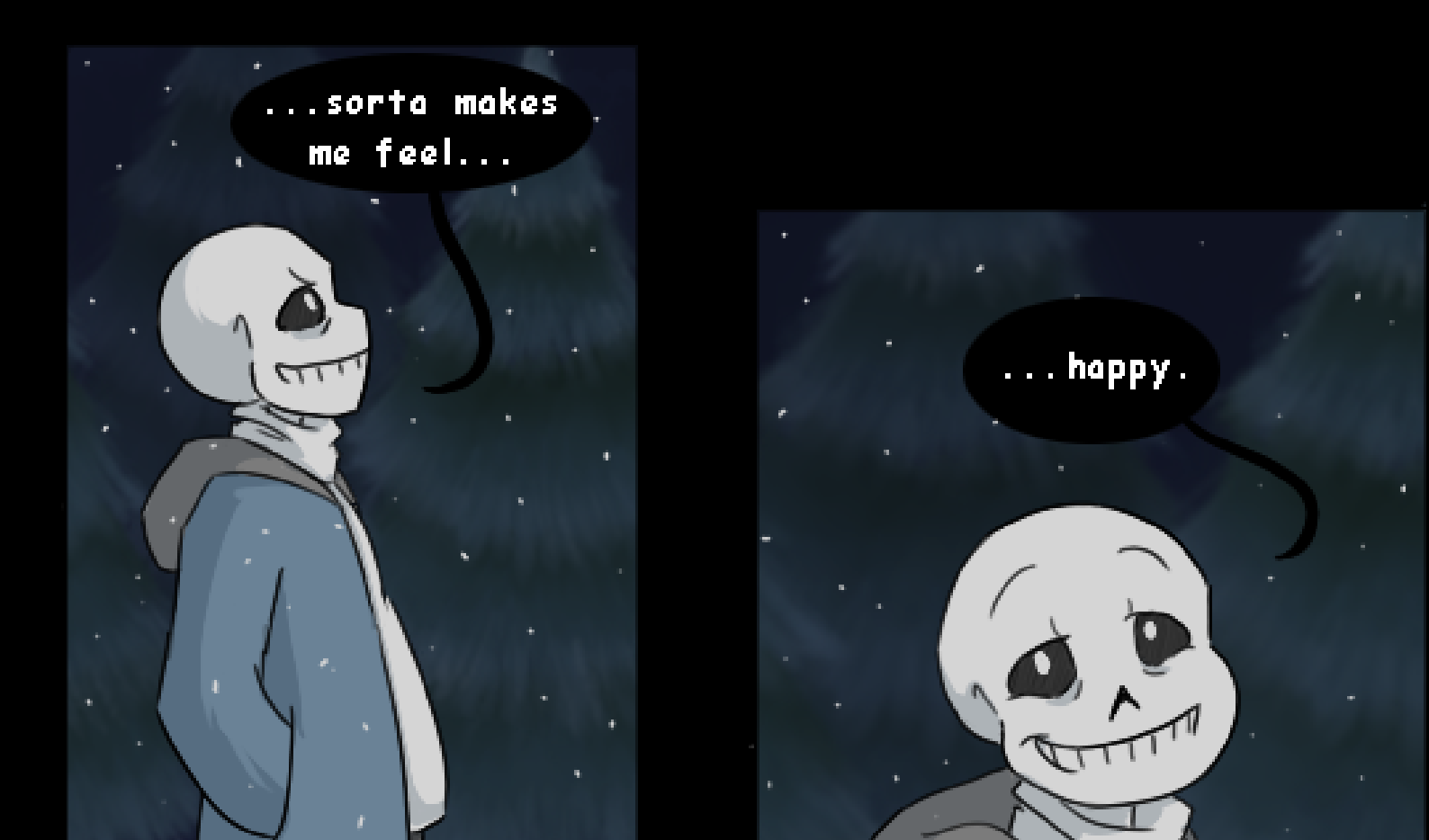
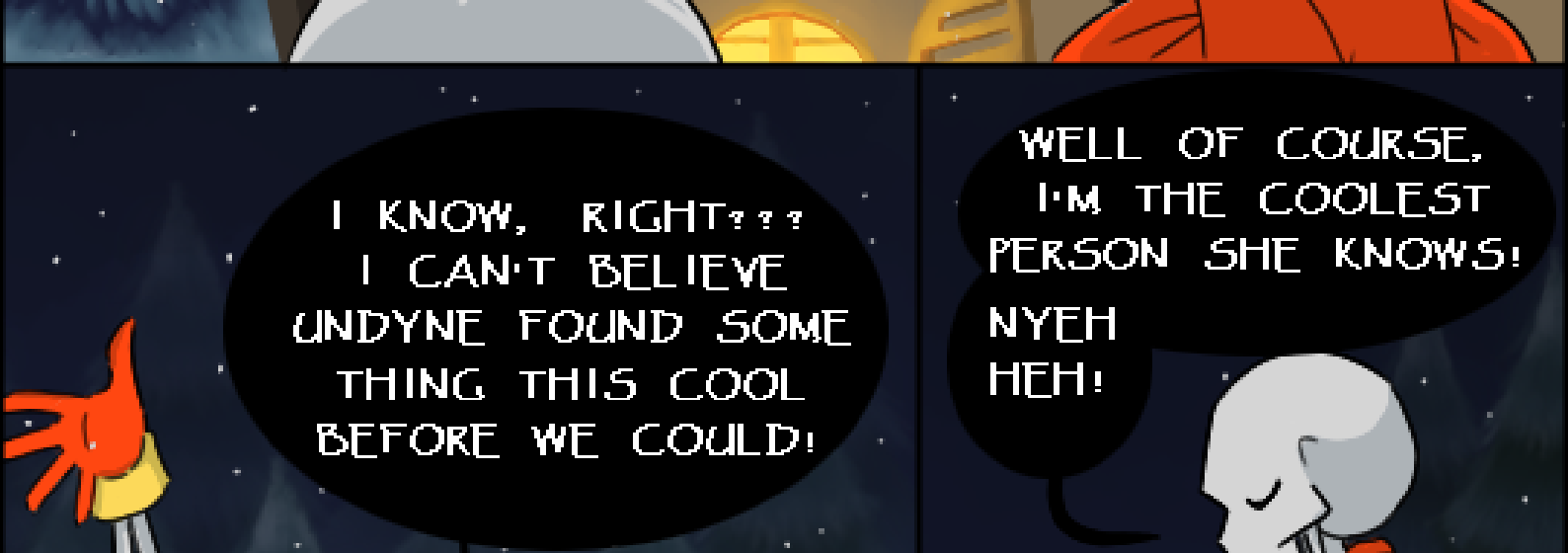
I LOVE IT.





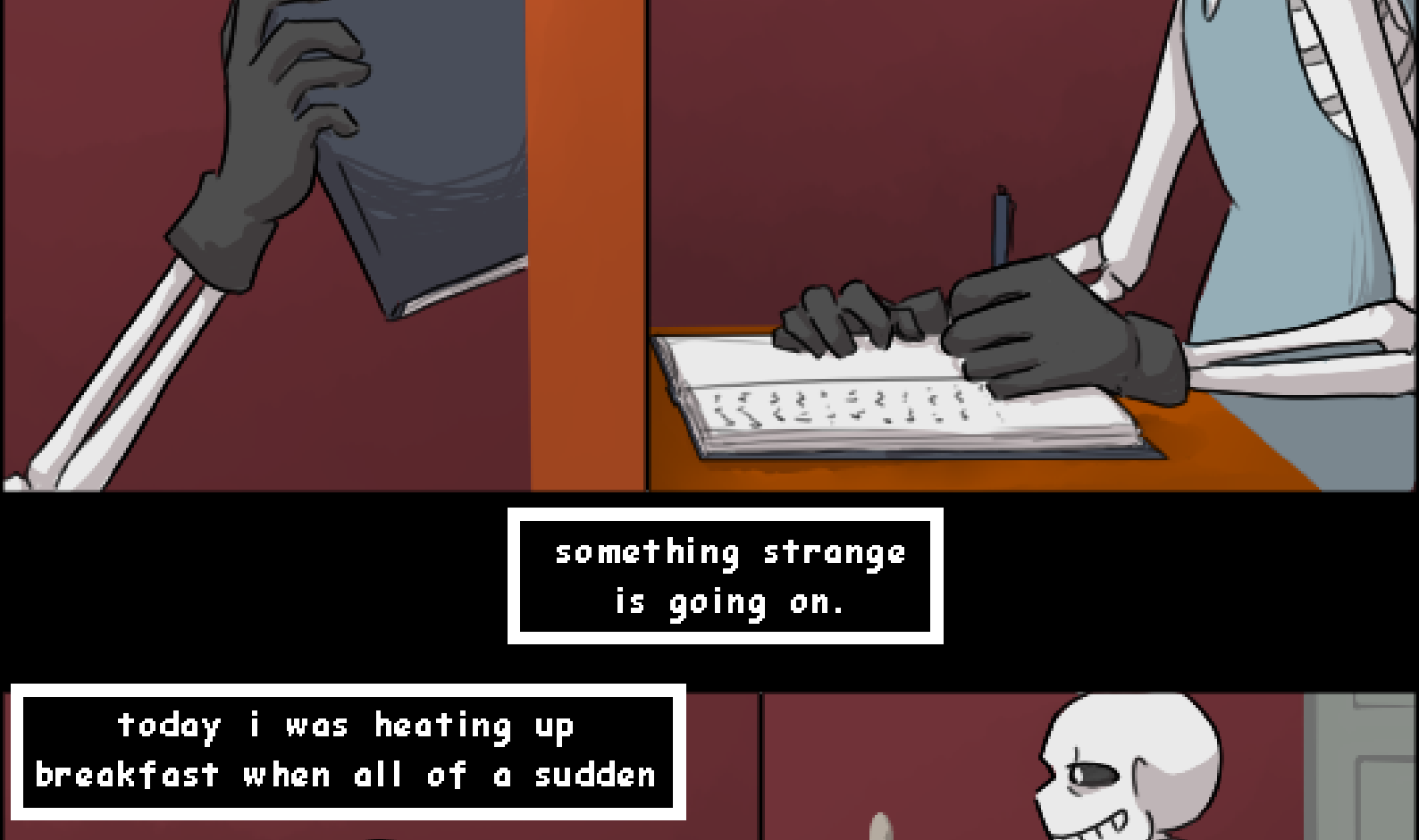








i got to write this all down before i forget it.



something strange is going on.

today i was heating up breakfast when all of a sudden

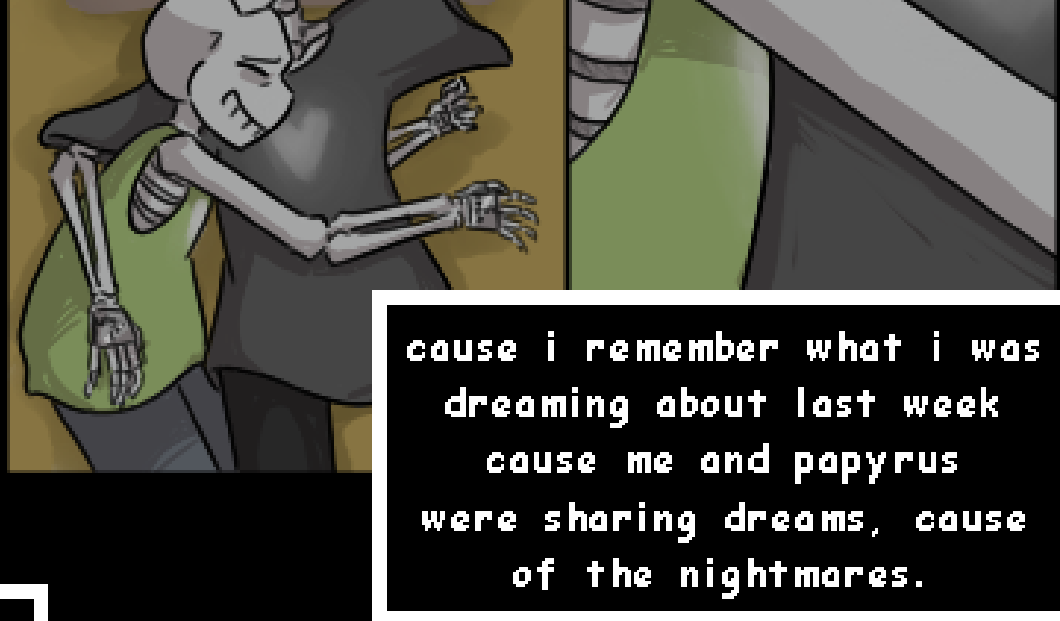


i got hit with deja vu like fifty times. all at once for a bunch of different dreams in a bunch of different places.

like someone turned on a faucet and a whole load of these not-memories poured into my head.

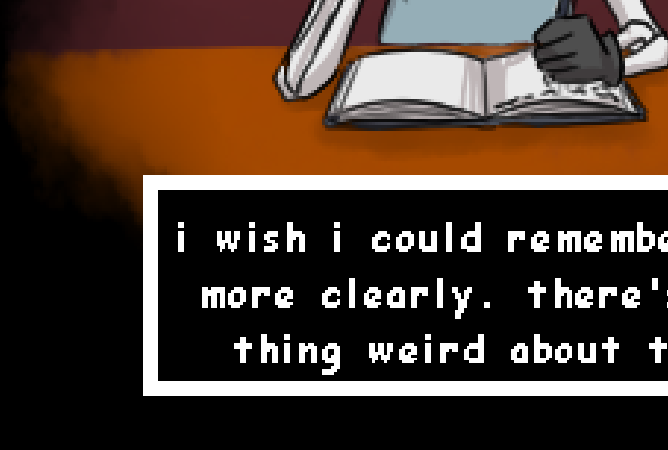
they're not seeing memories. i know what those are like. those are clear and they don't change.

but these new ones aren't normal dream memories either,



cause i remember what i was dreaming about last week cause me and papyrus were sharing dreams, cause of the nightmares.

i remember those dreams, and he does too. so where'd these new deja vus come from?



when did i dream them up? why am i only remembering 50 weird dreams right now, today?

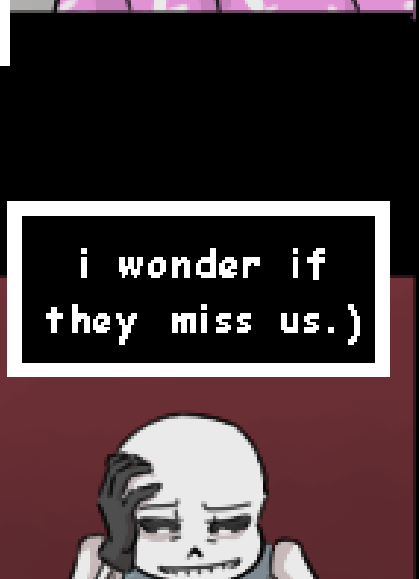
i wish i could remember them more clearly. there's some thing weird about them.

a lot of them seem normal, just an average day here in snowdin,



which is weird cause usually me and papyrus dream about cool stuff, especially if we're sharing dreams.

(i guess dream sharing is weird too cause asgore gave us That Look when we told him about it the first time. at this point i'd be more surprised if we found out there was something about us that was normal.



sometimes it really feels like we're from another dimension or something.



maybe that's where mom and dad are.



i wonder if they miss us.)



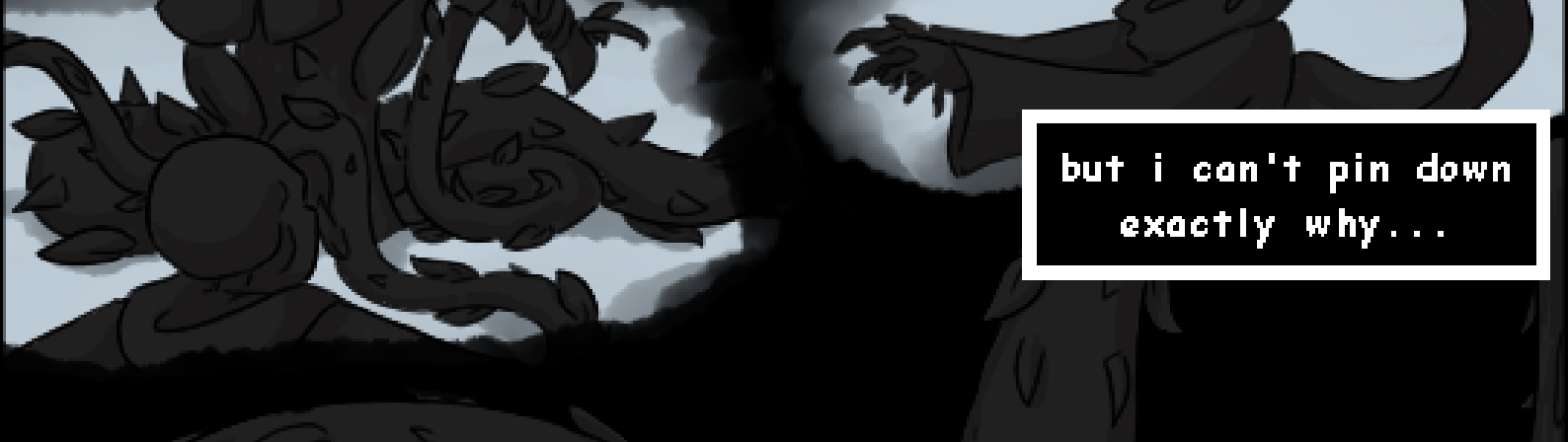
the point is normally our dreams aren't that mundane,

but all these new dreams are.

mostly.



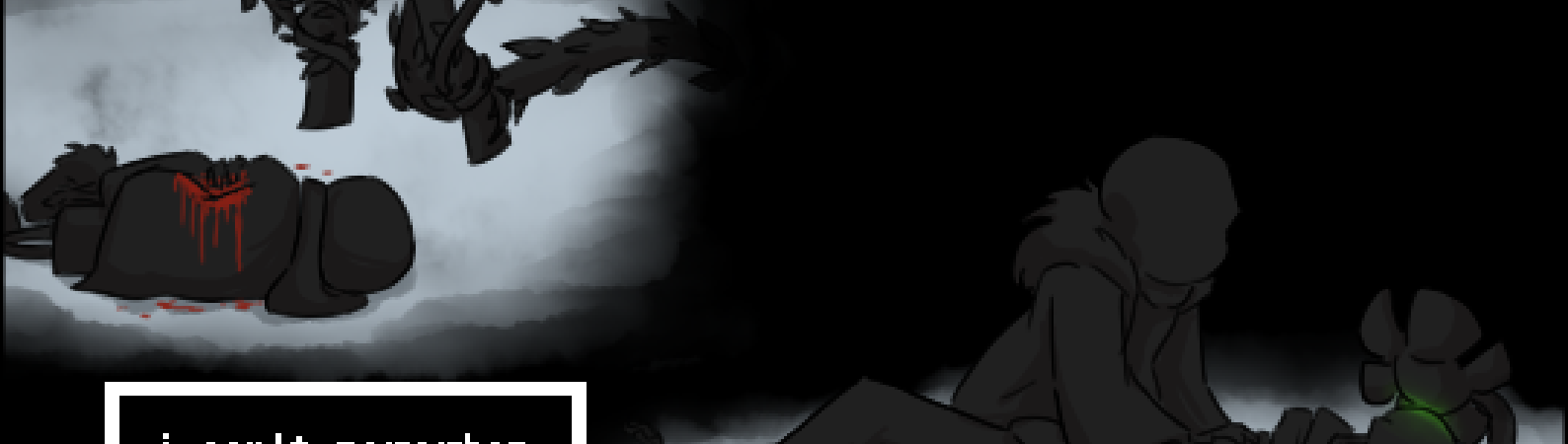
when they aren't mundane, i get this bad feeling



but i can't pin down exactly why...

just, something bad happening...

or something bad doing something.

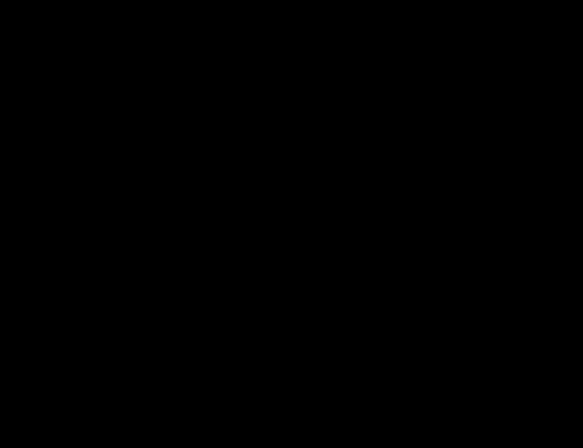


i can't remember it clearly.

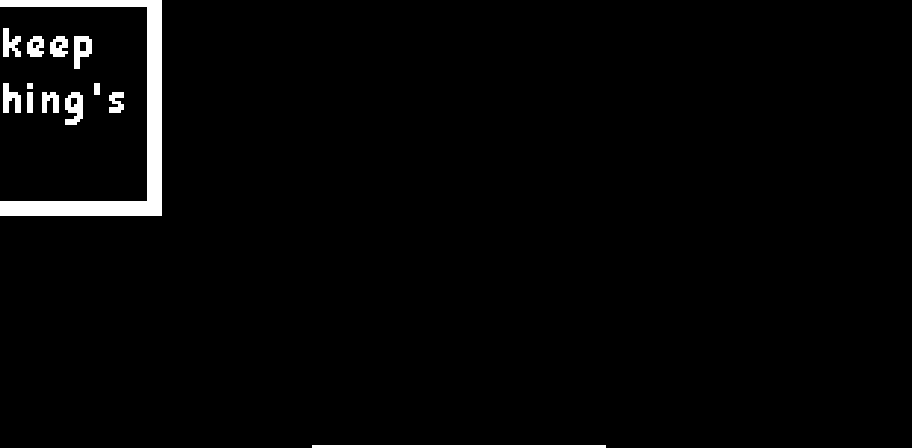


it's frustrating.

thank god papyrus has the same thing going on.



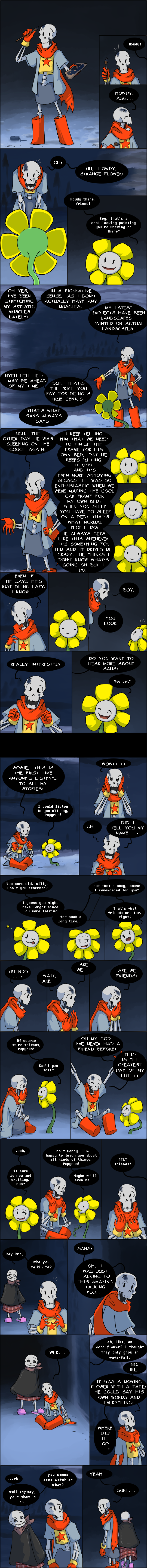
he told me all about all these sudden deja vu not memories he got about the same stuff, and it all just happened to him today too.



if it weren't for him i'd definitely feel like i was going crazy.

i'm gonna try to keep tabs on this. something's definitely up.

but what?



AND THEN
SANS WOULDN'T
TELL ME HOW HE
WAS FEELING!

HE ALWAYS SAYS
HE'S OKAY EVEN WHEN I
KNOW HE ISN'T, LIKE HE
THINKS I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S
GOING ON WITH HIM!
IT DRIVES ME CRAZY!

Yeah, secrets
are the worst!

When two people
REALLY trust each
other, they can tell
each other ANYthing!

Like you
and me, huh,
Papyrus?

WHAT?

You aren't keeping
any secrets from your
good friend, are
ya? You can tell
me ANYthing!

Like, I don't
know... why you
always wear gloves
all the time!

UM...

It CAN'T be
because of a
secret, right?

Because
friends always
tell each other
their secrets,
especially
BEST friends.

And we're
BEST friends,
aren't we,
Papyrus?

UH...

WELL, WE ARE, UH,
FRIENDS, YES, THAT
IS, DEFINITELY TRUE,

I THINK,
BUT, UM...

THERE IS, A
REASON FOR
WEARING THEM,

THAT IS
VERY GOOD AND
NOT A SECRET OR
SUSPICIOUS IN
ANY WAY,

AND, I
WILL TELL YOU
THIS REASON,

AS SOON
AS I THINK
OF IT.

Gosh,
you're so silly
sometimes!

All you have
to do is show me
your hand.

Then I'll know
you aren't keeping
any secrets from me!
And that we're
BEST friends!

You don't
have to make
up stories!

You want to
be friends, don't
you, Papyrus?

Y...
YEAH...

whoops!

It looks
like your glove
fell off!

Sometimes I'm
so clumsy.

And friends
show each other
their weird
hand-

Boy,
what's that on
your hand there,
Papyrus?

UH,
NOTHING!

JUST SOMETHING, VERY
NORMAL FOR SKELETONS,
THAT I DON'T HAVE ANY
KIND OF ISSUES ABOUT
WHATSOEVER, SO!

WE DON'T HAVE
TO TALK ABOUT IT
ANYMORE, SINCE
THAT'S ALL THERE
IS TO IT!

NOTHING
IMPORTANT!

Say, does your
brother have one
of these too?

Since this one
says you're number two,
so there must be a
number one, right?

UH,

I KNOW
WE'RE
REALLY
GOOD
FRIENDS,
BUT,

I REALLY DON'T
THINK YOU SHOULD
ASK SANS ABOUT IT,
HE DOESN'T, UH,
LIKE TAKING HIS
GLOVES OFF AS
MUCH AS, I DO,
SOMETIMES,

WHEN PEOPLE PULL
MY GLOVES OFF,
BECAUSE IT DOESN'T
BOTHER ME!
AT ALL! ESPECIALLY
WHEN IT'S BY MY
FRIENDS, WHICH I
HAVE MANY OF,
INCLUDING YOU.

Gosh, I didn't
mean to make you
uncomfortable,
Papyrus?

I was
just curious!

I feel just
awful about
doing that,
boy.

If only
I'd known you were
keeping a secret like
that, I wouldn't have
asked!

OH, DON'T
FEEL BAD!

I SHOULD
HAVE TOLD
YOU.

I DON'T,

KNOW
WHY I DIDN'T

But don't worry.
I know a way I can
make it up to
you!

I think I know
where that thing
on your hand
came from.



SANS?

SANS!

DON'T SLEEP
ON THE FLOOR!!

GET UP!!

's not the floor,
its a mattress

IT'S NOT
A BED! GET
UP!

you said dont
sleep on the
floor, not dont
not sleep on
a bed

UGH, THIS IS REALLY
IMPORTANT!!

whats up?

SANS!!!

DO YOU REMEMBER
THAT TALKING FLOWER
I TOLD YOU ABOUT?

is this like
that imaginary flying
dog friend you had
for a while?

THIS ONE'S
REAL!!!

AND DON'T MALIGN
SIR WOOFWOOF,
THANK YOU.

BUT THE FLOWER
TOLD ME SOMETHING
IMPORTANT!

alright,
shoot.

HE TOLD ME
THAT THERE'S
A SECRET LOCKED
DOOR IN HOTLAND!
AND THAT NO
ONE'S EVER BEEN
ABLE TO
OPEN IT.

huh.
weird.

SO I ASKED HIM TO
SHOW IT TO ME, AND
IT'S REALLY THERE!
IT'S REAL!

AND... I
THINK IT HAS
SOMETHING TO DO
WITH THESE.

wait what?

are you
serious? how
do you know?

I THINK IT'D
BE EASIER IF
YOU SAW IT
YOURSELF.

...ok, can we
take a shortcut?



THIS SHOULD BE CLOSE...



OH, THERE IT IS!

LOOK, SANS! THIS IS IT!

huh... well, it's definitely a door.

DON'T TELL ME YOU DON'T SEE IT!

see what?



THERE'S NO DOOR KNOB, SANS!

...ok?

SANS! I KNOW YOU'RE BETTER AT PUZZLES THAN THAT.

THERE'S NO DOORKNOB! DON'T YOU REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE WITH ASGORE?

HE HAD TO TEACH US ABOUT DOORKNOBS! AND THAT MEANS

that we didn't know about em before...

EXACTLY!

BUT THAT'S NOT ALL, SANS.

LOOK, WATCH THIS.



IT WOULDN'T TURN ON FOR HIM,

ONLY FOR ME.

...nah.

nah, somethin's not right.

why would this flower guy even know about this?

why would he bring you here? what did you tell him?

we should tell undyne about this ...

I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO UNDYNE ABOUT...

THIS STUFF.

AND EVERYTHING ELSE HE'S TOLD ME HAS COME TRUE. I THINK HE WAS RIGHT.

I THINK THIS IS WHERE WE CAME FROM.

what do you mean, everything else?

how would this flower even know? who IS this guy?

SANS, COME HERE AND TRY IT.

I CAN ONLY GET ONE LIGHT TO GO ON, BUT MAYBE YOU CAN DO MORE.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS.

I GOT A REAL BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

what if...

i dunno, what if we're better off not knowing, you know?

this isn't normal...

NOTHING ABOUT US IS NORMAL, SANS!

AND I'M SICK OF WONDERING WHY.

I WANT TO KNOW. I WANT ANSWERS.

COME HERE AND PUT YOUR HAND ON THE THINGY.



ONLY ONE LIGHT ...

bro, put your hand on it too.



...

are you sure about this?

WE CAN DO IT, SANS.

WE CAN FINALLY SOLVE OUR PUZZLE.

...(sigh)

alright, let's go.

ENTRY NUMBER :

INTERESTING FIND
TODAY

A HUMAN SPECULATIVE
FICTION BOOK THAT
THEORIZED ABOUT CREATING
ARTIFICIAL BEINGS IN A
HUMAN'S IMAGE...
"HOMUNCULI". CLEARLY
IMPOSSIBLE, PARTICULARLY
WITH HOW VAGUE
THE BOOK WAS ABOUT
THE PROCESS.

IT DOES MAKE ONE
WONDER WHY
HUMANS WOULD BE
INTERESTED IN SUCH
A THING. PERHAPS
THEY LACK PURPOSE
WITHOUT LESSER
CREATURES TO LORD
OVER. IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY.



ENTRY NUMBER :

STILL NEED TO
ADJUST THE CORE'S
OUTPUT LEVELS

I KEEP RETURNING
TO THAT HUMAN'S
IDEA. HOMUNCULI.

WOULD SUCH
A BEING HAVE
A SOUL? IT
WASN'T
MENTIONED.

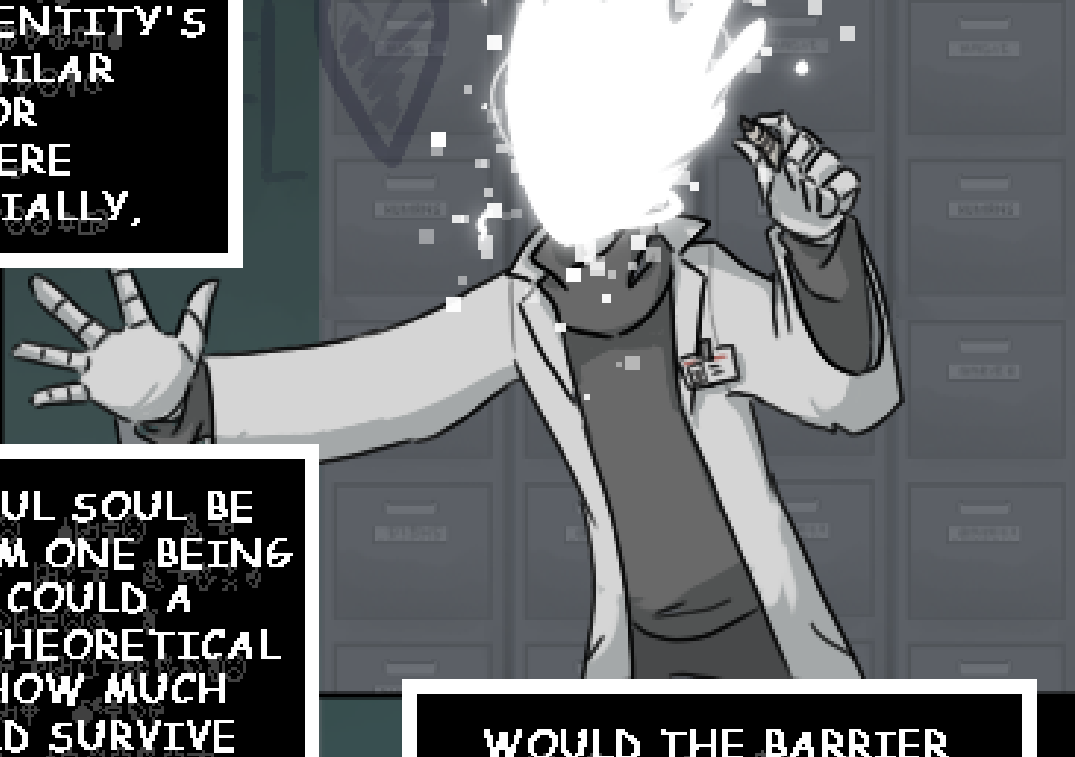
ENTRY NUMBER :

SOULS ARE CONSISTENT
IN THEIR SHAPE. IF A SOUL
IS LIKE A BIOLOGICAL CELL,
THEN THERE APPEARS
TO BE A STANDARD INTERNAL
STRUCTURE BETWEEN
HUMANS AND MONSTERS
CONTAINING THAT ENTITY'S
POWER. IF A SIMILAR
STRUCTURE OR
CONTAINER WERE
CREATED ARTIFICIALLY,

COULD A POWERFUL SOUL BE
TRANSFERRED FROM ONE BEING
TO ANOTHER? COULD A
SOUL SURVIVE A THEORETICAL
TRANSPLANT? HOW MUCH
OF A SOUL COULD SURVIVE
THAT PROCESS?

WOULD THE BARRIER
CONSIDER A
TRANSPLANTED SOUL
A LIVING THING? WOULD
IT BE POSSIBLE TO USE
THE ARTIFICIAL
CONTAINER TO
CHANGE THE PROPERTIES
OF THAT BEING AND
THE SOUL INSIDE IT?

HOW EXACTLY DOES THE BARRIER
DETERMINE WHETHER SOMETHING
IS ANIMATE OR INANIMATE? IS IT
BASED ON THE SOUL, OR
SOMETHING ELSE?



ENTRY NUMBER :

another human dead.

that makes five.

ENTRY NUMBER :

I NEED TO STOP
THINKING ABOUT
THIS.

I CAN'T
FOCUS.



ENTRY NUMBER :

IT CAN BE DONE.



kinda dark
in here, huh?

A LITTLE...

DOES IT
LOOK FAMILIAR?

i mean...

it kinda all
looks the same,
doesn't it?

it's dark.

...YEAH.

I WAS JUST
HOPING WE'D REMEMBER
SOMETHING.

might have to
look around a bit
longer for that.

WELL THEN,
LET'S LOOK EVERY
WHERE!

STARTING
WITH THIS
ROOM!!

SANS, COME
OVER HERE AND
PUT YOUR HAND
ON THE THING!

don't you
think this is kinda
weird...?

WHAT IS?

that all these doors
are locked with this weird
hand reader thing,

and we can't
open 'em alone,
it needs both
of us...

like, are we
not enough on
our own, or
...?

OH!

THAT GIVES
ME AN IDEA,
SANS!

?

YOU KNOW HOW
WE CAN DO REALLY
COOL ATTACKS WHEN
WE HOLD HANDS?

...yeah, like
we're charging
each other up.

MAYBE THAT'S WHAT
WE NEED TO DO! WE
SHOULD CHARGE EACH
OTHER UP AND THEN
TOUCH THE THING!
WE'LL BE SO
POWERFUL, ALL
THE DOORS WILL
OPEN AT ONCE!

...i mean, i
guess that
makes sense,
but...

I'M SURE IT
WILL WORK!

COME ON,
SANS,

HERE.

WE.

GO!

are you
okay??

UH...

YES, I
AM FINE!

AND...

MY PLAN
WORKED AFTER
ALL!

ALL THE
DOORS ARE
OPEN!

...yeah, i
guess they
are.

ANOTHER TOTALLY
INTENTIONAL VICTORY
FOR PAPYRUS!

COME ON,
SANS!

LET'S KEEP
EXPLORING!

ENTRY NUMBER

I'VE RUN EVERY PERMUTATION OF EVERY VARIATION ON MY THEORY

AND ALL THE SIMULATIONS LEAD TO THE SAME CONCLUSION.

IT IS POSSIBLE

USING THE SAME PRINCIPLES FROM THE CAPSULES.

REMODELED INTO THE PROPER SHAPE AND SIZE.

WITH THE CORRECT STARTING MATERIAL AND THE PROPER ENVIRONMENT TO ENCOURAGE GROWTH,

LIFE CAN BEGIN.

THE BEING(S) CREATED WILL BE FORMLESS AND NON-SAPIENT.

BUT THEIR SOUL WILL BE CAPABLE OF CHANNELING AND AMPLIFYING MAGICAL ENERGY DUE TO THE ARTIFICIAL SOUL'S STRUCTURE.

IF I CAN GET THE HUMAN SOULS FROM ASGORE TO AUGMENT THE FLOW,

THE POTENTIAL POWER CHanneled THROUGH THIS BEING(S) COULD BE ENOUGH TO BREAK THE BARRIER.

TO SET US FREE.

NOT TO MENTION, THE NEW LIFEFORM IN AND OF ITSELF WOULD BE INCALCULABLY VALUABLE, AN UNPRECEDENTED BREAKTHROUGH IN THE FIELD OF MAGICAL BIOLOGY.

THE AMOUNT OF INFORMATION THAT COULD BE LEARNED FROM THIS NEW LIFEFORM WOULD BE IMMEASURABLE.

THE POSSIBILITIES THRILL ME.

I'D FORGOTTEN WHAT THIS FEELS LIKE.

ENTRY NUMBER

I CAN'T DO THIS.



ENTRY NUMBER ████ :

I KEEP ASKING MYSELF
WHAT A HUMAN WOULD DO
IN THIS SITUATION.

WHAT WOULD A
HUMAN DO TO TRY
AND PROTECT SOME-
ONE THEY LOVED?

TO FIND AN ANSWER?

TO FIND FREEDOM?

THEY DON'T BELIEVE
IN LIMITATIONS

ENTRY NUMBER ████ :

I DO NOT BELIEVE
IN FATE.

THERE IS ONLY A
LACK OF OPTIONS.

ENTRY NUMBER ████ :

DRAWING UP A LIST
OF THE REQUIREMENTS
FOR THIS EXPERIMENT.

I FIND THAT I
AM NOT ONLY
'THE IDEAL'
CANDIDATE,

BUT THE ONLY
CANDIDATE.

ONLY I CAN
DO THIS.

EVEN IF I HAD A
WILLING ASSISTANT
TO ALLOW ME TO
USE THEIR SOUL,

ONLY A POWERFUL SOUL
WILL BE ABLE TO WITH-
STAND THE PROCEDURE.

AND EVEN THEN,

SURVIVAL IS NOT
100% CERTAIN.

I AM THE ONLY ONE LEFT
WITH A STRONG ENOUGH
SOUL THAT IS AN OPTION.

IT MUST BE ME.

EVEN MY PHYSICAL BODY
IS UNIQUELY SUITED
TO DONATE MATERIAL
TO THIS CAUSE.

THERE WILL BE AN
EMOTIONAL COST AS
WELL, OF COURSE.

AND EVEN IN THAT
REGARD, I AM BEST
SUITED.

WHEN A HYPOTHESIS
IS PROVEN INCORRECT,
ONE MUST TAKE THE
NEW DATA AND
CONSTRUCT A NEW
HYPOTHESIS
BASED ON NEW
EVIDENCE.

THIS APPLIES TO ALL THINGS.

EVEN CONCEPT OF THE SELF.

EVENTS HAVE PROVEN
THAT I AM SELFISH.

COLD.

AND
INCAPABLE
OF TRUE
EMOTIONAL
CONNECTION
WITH ANY
LIVING BEING.

GIVEN PREVIOUS
DATA, IT IS NOT
UNREASONABLE
TO ASSUME THAT
I HAVE NOT
ACHIEVED THE
LIMITS OF
MY OWN
CAPACITY
FOR CRUELTY.

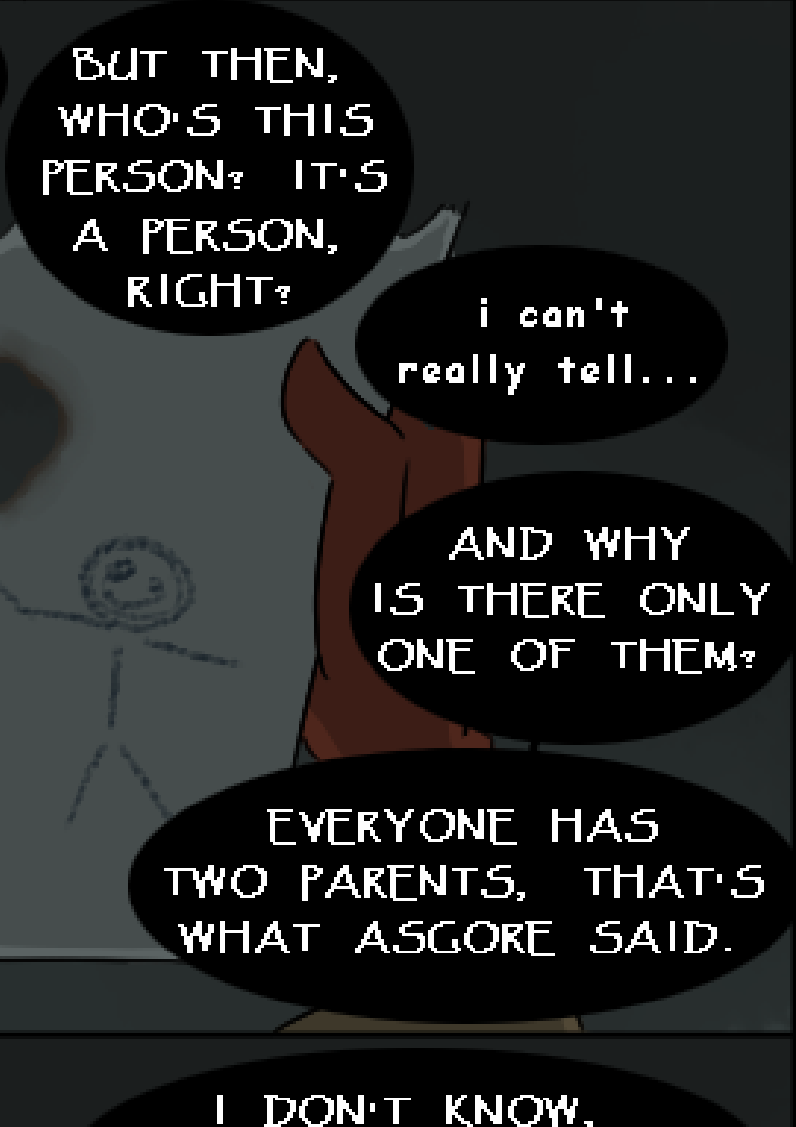
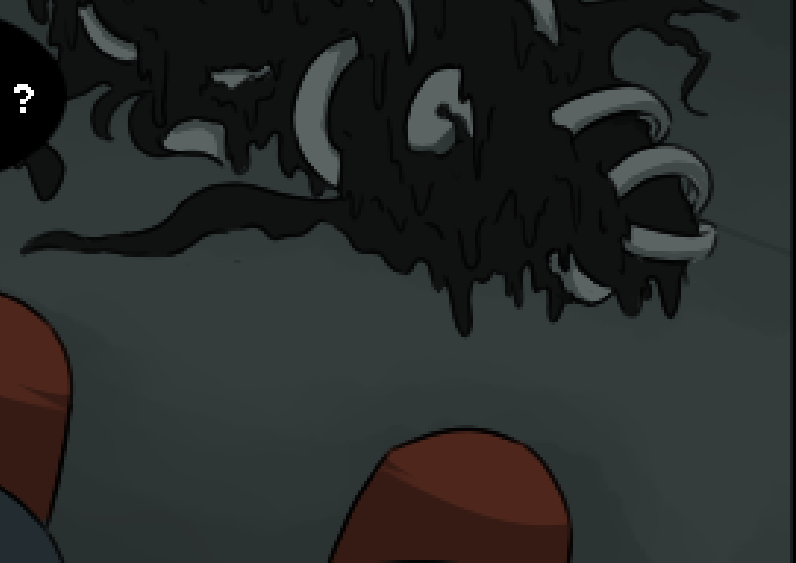
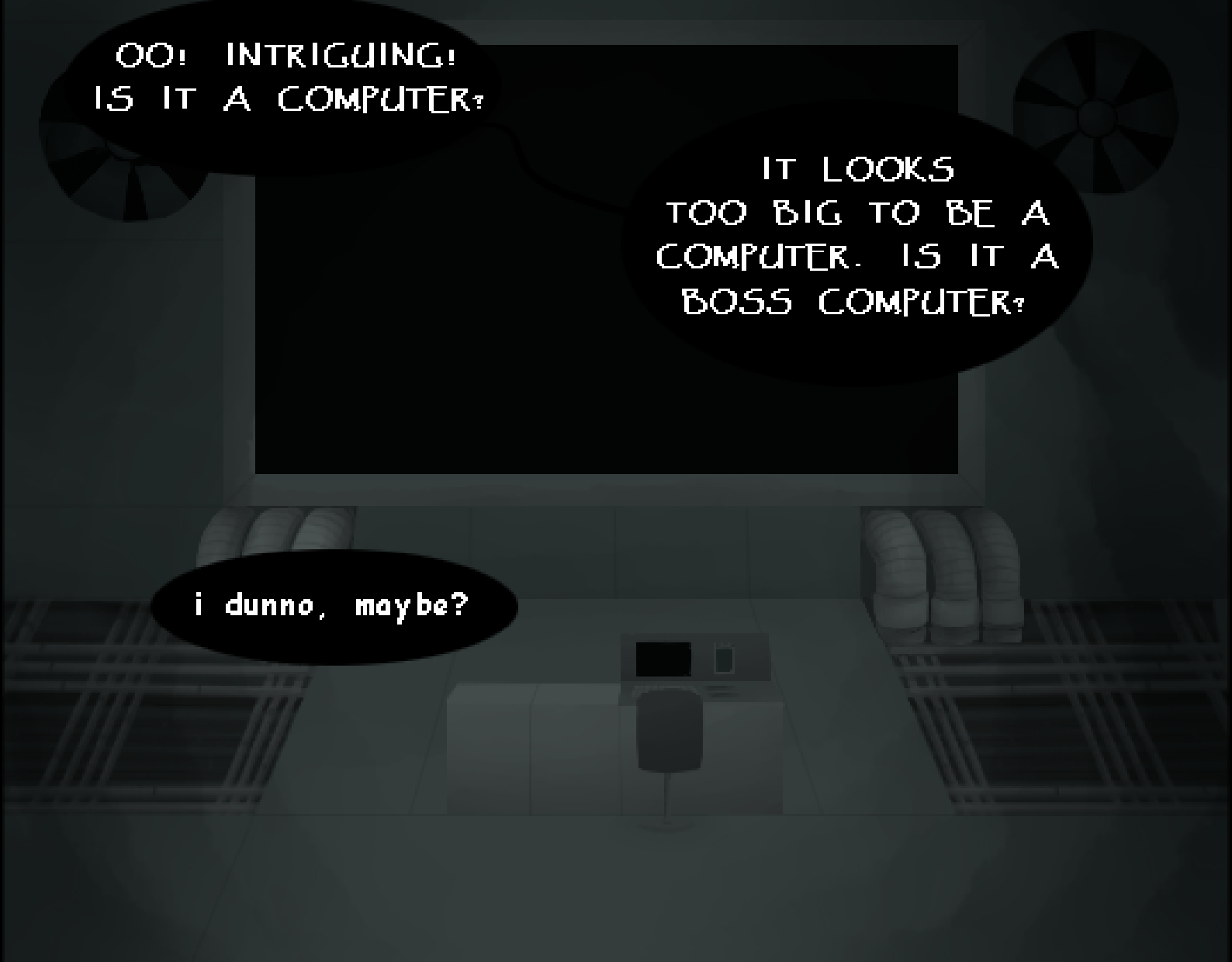
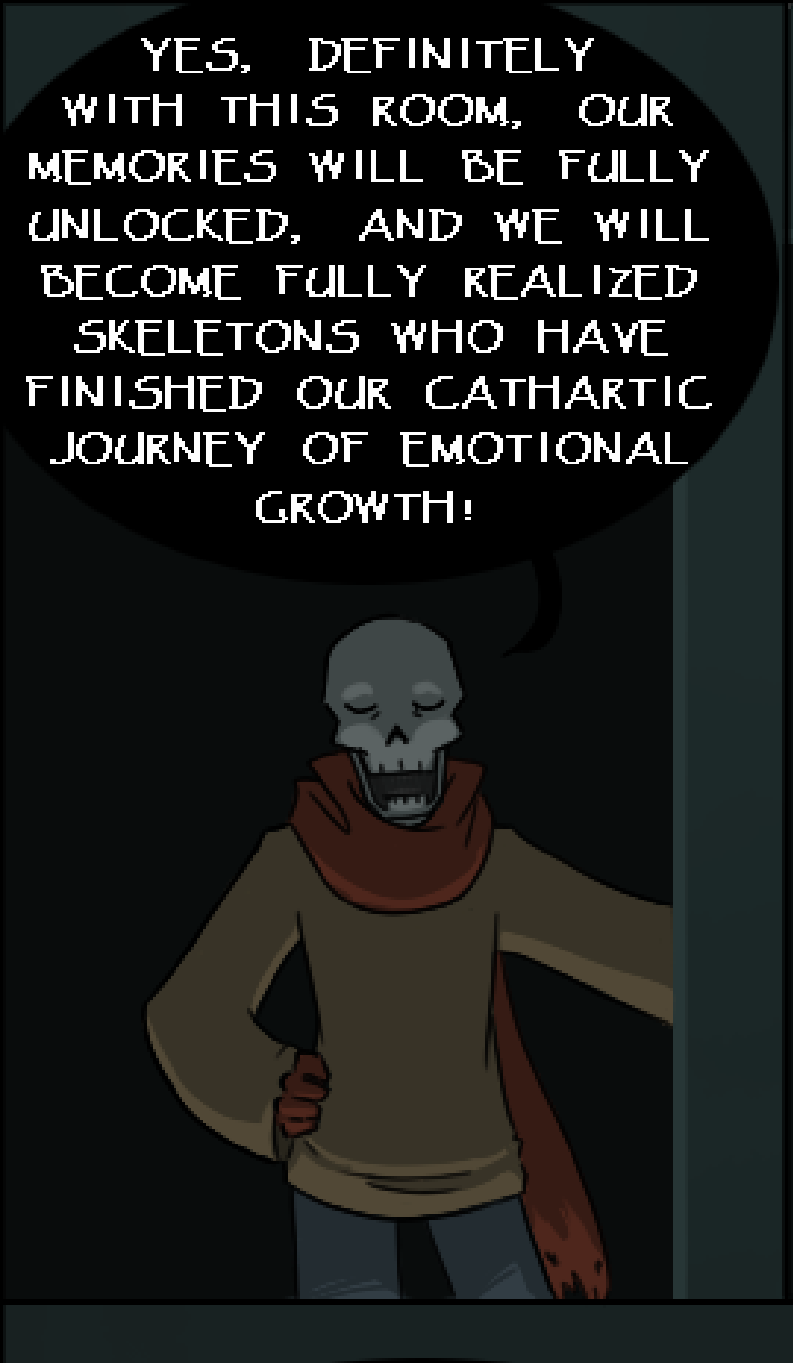
MY LEVEL
OF VIOLENCE
PREVENTS
ME FROM
FEELING
FOR ANYONE, AND
MAKES ME
UNIQUELY
SUITED
TO WHAT THIS
EXPERIMENT
WOULD
REQUIRE.

LOGICALLY, I AM THE
ONLY ONE WHO
CAN DO THIS.

AND THE BEST
SUITED TO
DO THIS.

IT MAY COST ME MY LIFE,

BUT I NEVER EARNED IT
IN THE FIRST PLACE.

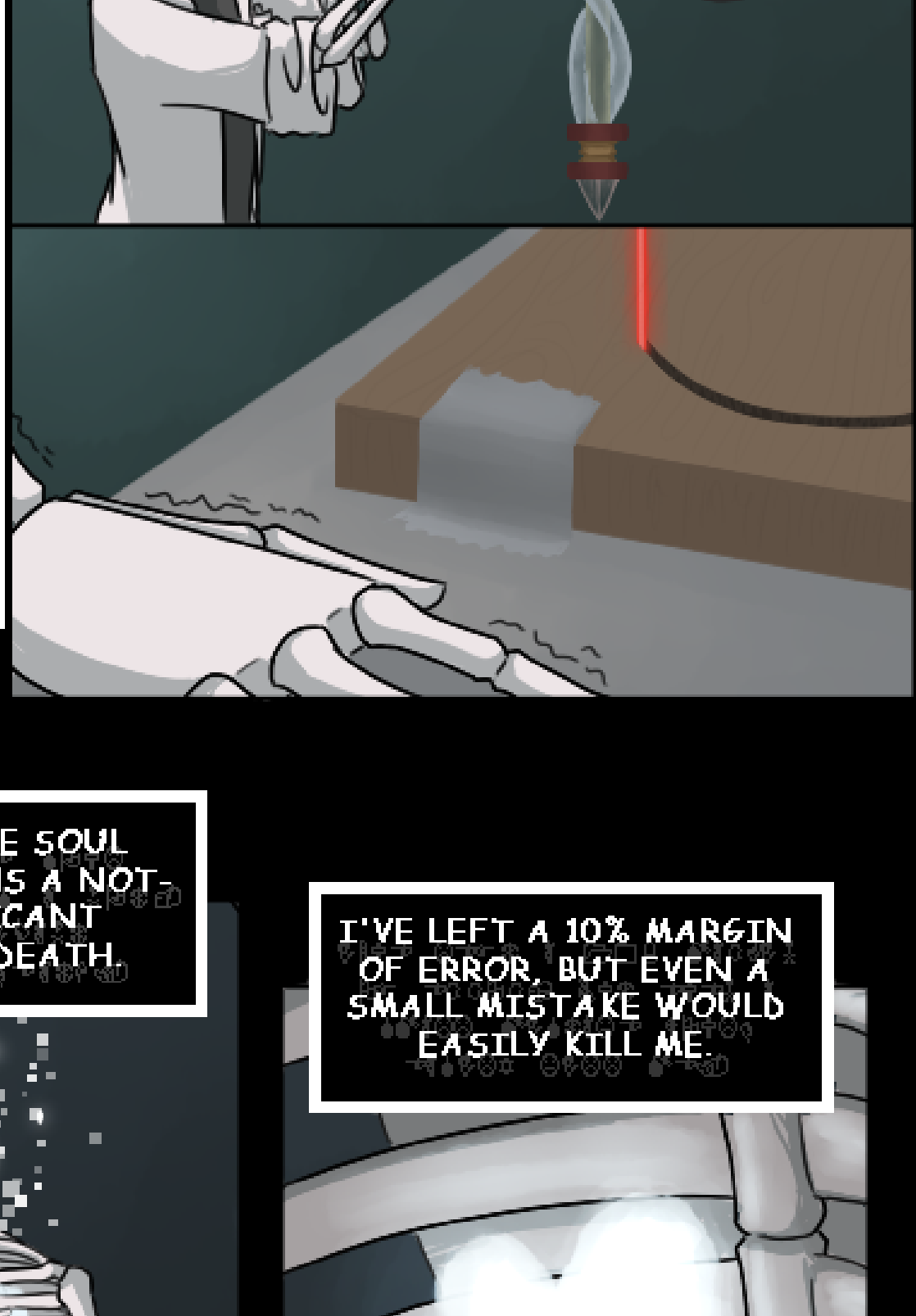


ENTRY NUMBER

BEFORE I BEGIN THIS PROJECT, I NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE COSTS. IF I HAVE EVEN A FRACTION OF A DOUBT ABOUT ANY OF THIS, THEN I LACK THE CONVICTION TO CONTINUE, AND THE PROJECT IS DOOMED FROM THE BEGINNING.

I CAN'T DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS UNLESS I'M WILLING TO SEE IT THROUGH TO THE END. OTHERWISE IT WILL ALL BE FOR NOTHING.

TO GET THE MATERIAL REQUIRED, I WILL HAVE TO MUTILATE MYSELF PHYSICALLY AND PERMANENTLY. IT WILL LIKELY BE EXCRUCIATING, ALTHOUGH SIMULATIONS I'VE BEEN RUNNING SUGGEST I WON'T SUFFER ANY LOSS TO DEXTERITY.



GETTING THE SOUL MATERIAL RUNS A NOT-INSIGNIFICANT CHANCE OF DEATH.

I'VE LEFT A 10% MARGIN OF ERROR, BUT EVEN A SMALL MISTAKE WOULD EASILY KILL ME.

IF I'M GOING TO DO THIS, THEN I MUST BE WILLING TO PAY WITH MY LIFE.

I MUST BE REALISTIC ABOUT THE END RESULTS.

EVEN IN THE BEST CASE SCENARIO.

EVEN IF EVERYTHING GOES EXACTLY TO PLAN AND EVERYTHING WORKS OUT IN THE MOST IDEAL WAY FOR EVERYONE.

NO ONE WILL EVER FORGIVE ME FOR WHAT I DID TO GET US THERE.

THE EXPERIMENTS AND TESTS I WILL RUN ON THIS BEING(S).

THE ENVIRONMENT I WILL KEEP THEM IN.

CREATING LIFE TO USE AS A TOOL FOR OTHERS' ENDS...

THAT IS NOT SOMETHING THAT CAN BE FORGIVEN.

EVEN IF SALVATION IS FOUND FOR EVERYONE ELSE.

THERE WILL BE NO SALVATION FOR ME.

THE KING WILL NEVER FORGIVE ME.

ALPHYS WILL NEVER FORGIVE ME.

MY NAME WILL BE CONDEMNED.

I'LL BE STRICKEN FROM THE HISTORICAL RECORDS.

BANNED FROM PURSUING MY LIFE'S PASSION EVER AFTER.

DEFINITELY IMPRISONED.

POSSIBLY EXECUTED.

AND THAT IS THE BEST-CASE SCENARIO.

ALL FOR THE POSSIBILITY OF A SOLUTION, NOT EVEN A GUARANTEED SUCCESS.

I MUST BE WILLING TO MAINTAIN A STRICT LEVEL OF EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL DISTANCE FROM THE BEING(S) AT ALL TIMES TO PREVENT ANY RISK OF DOUBTING MYSELF OR MY COURSE OF ACTION.

I MAY HAVE TO DO REPREHENSIBLE, CRUEL, UNBELIEVABLE THINGS TO ANOTHER LIVING BEING, OVER A SUSTAINED PERIOD OF TIME, TO DETERMINE ITS LIMITATIONS AND POTENTIAL AS A TOOL.

I WILL HAVE TO TURN OFF EVERY EMOTION I HAVE AND FOCUS SOLELY ON MY GOAL.

I WILL HAVE TO BECOME ENTIRELY "HUMAN" IN MY THINKING AND APPROACH TO THE BEING(S).

I CANNOT SHOW ANY SIGNS OF WEAKNESS.

I CANNOT TURN BACK UNTIL IT IS DONE.

I NEED TO UNDERSTAND THIS.

I NEED TO UNDERSTAND AND KNOW THIS BEFORE I CAN BEGIN.

I CANNOT DO THIS UNLESS I UNDERSTAND. I CANNOT DO THIS IF I DOUBT. I CANNOT DO THIS IF I'M NOT WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE.

I CAN ONLY MOVE FORWARD IF I AM TRULY DETERMINED TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO ACHIEVE MY GOALS.

THERE IS NO POINT IN FURTHER SPECULATION UNTIL I'VE MADE MY CHOICE.



ENTRY NUMBER

OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

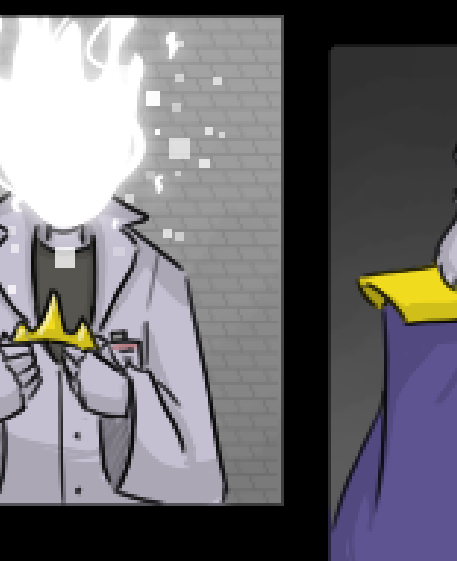
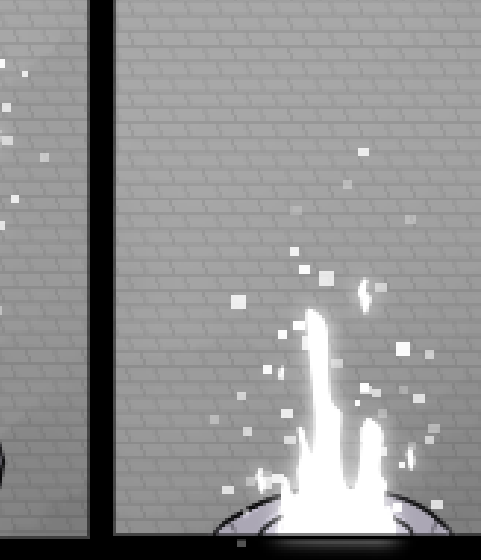
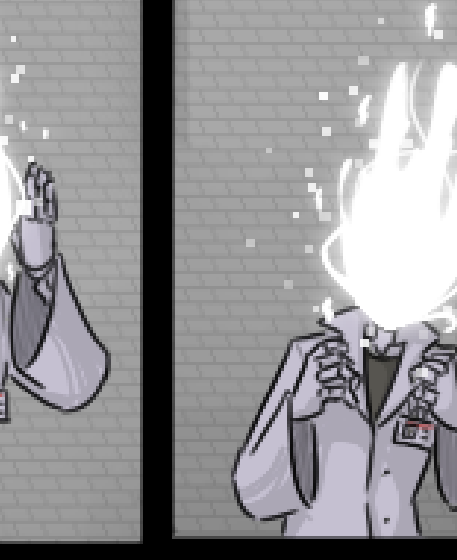
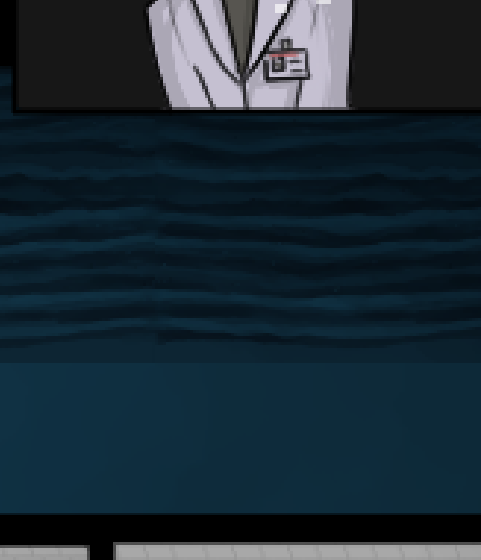
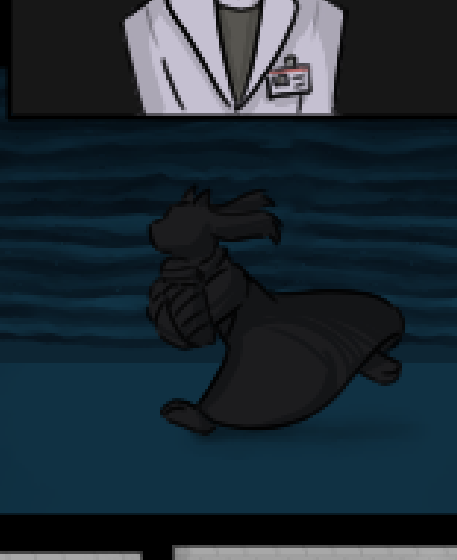


I HAVE STOOD BY AND COVERED HELPLESSLY

WHILE PEOPLE I LOVED SUFFERED AND DIED IN FRONT OF ME



DID NOTHING TO PREVENT IT.



THE DUST IS ON MY SHOULDERS.

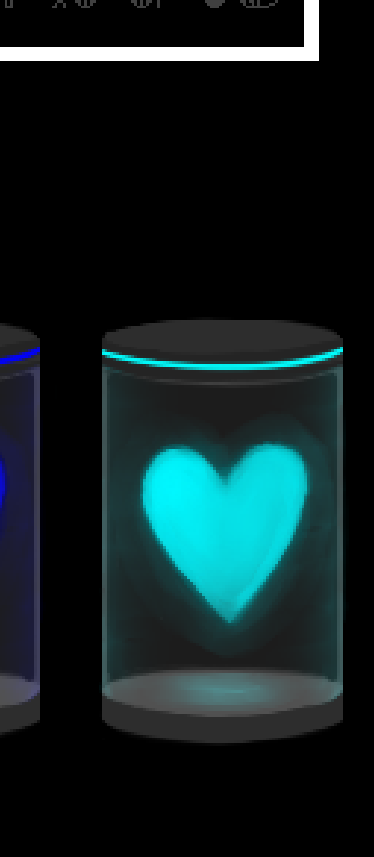


AGAIN

AND AGAIN.



I'VE STOOD BY AND WATCHED THESE TRAGEDIES HAPPEN.



UNABLE TO CARE ENOUGH TO TRY AND PREVENT THEM.



TIME IS RAPIDLY RUNNING OUT.

THIS WILL BE MY LAST CHANCE TO TRY AND DO SOMETHING

TO JUSTIFY MY CONTINUED EXISTENCE AT OTHERS' EXPENSE.

I AM CAPABLE OF DOING SOMETHING.

IT MAY NOT SUCCEED, BUT I CAN STILL ACT.

DOING SO WILL DESTROY MY LIFE, BUT I CAN STILL MAKE THAT CHOICE.

I AM RUNNING OUT OF TIME.

AM I WILLING TO RISK EVERYTHING ON THIS ONE LONG-SHOT?

EITHER WAY.

IN THE END.

I WILL LOSE WHAT I LOVE.

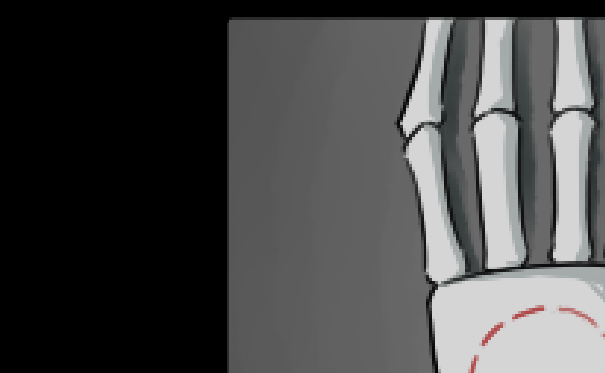
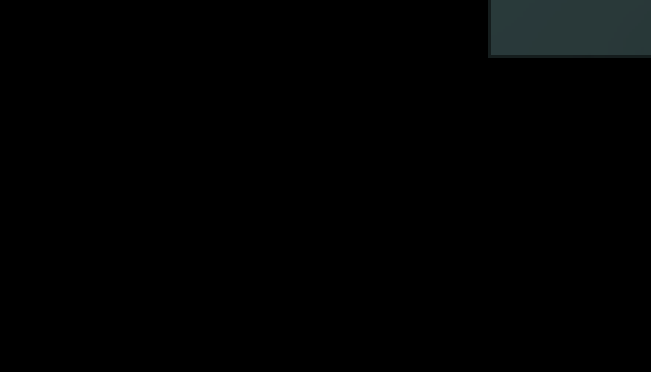


IS IT BETTER TO TRY AND FAIL,

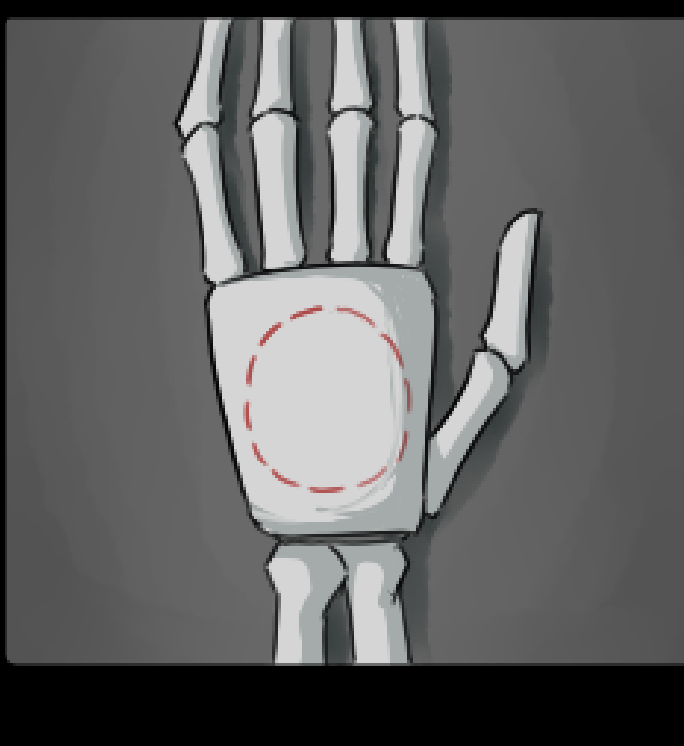
OR TO LET TRAGEDY TAKE ITS COURSE?

I CAN'T SLEEP.

ENTRY NUMBER



NO TURNING BACK.



DO YOU
REMEMBER ANY
THING YET?

not since you
last asked me five
minutes ago.

I DON'T GET
IT, SANS...

WE'RE HERE,
THIS PLACE MUST
BE WHERE WE CAME
FROM BUT...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND
WHY IT STILL ISN'T WORKING.
WE'RE DOING WHAT WE'RE
SUPPOSED TO, AREN'T WE
...?

THIS IS THE
LAST ROOM...

THE ANSWER
HAS TO BE
HERE...

so much
nothin,

so little
time...

hey, check
this out, bro.
cool huh?

HUH. WHAT
AN ODDLY COLORED
CUBE.

i think you
can spin the sides
around.

WHAT
...?

i think it's
a puzzle...
see?

DOES IT MAKE
YOU REMEMBER
ANYTHING?

uh, no...

how about
you?

well...

i'm gonna
hang onto it,

might be fun
to mess around
with later.



... sorry to say
it bro, but...

i don't think
there's anything else
left in here to find,
you know?

i was hoping
it'd work too,
but...

there's nothin
here, and i'm not
really remembering
anything.

maybe we should
just give up and call
it a day. we can think about
what we got and see if we
can come up with any
ideas at home.

huh,
bro?

...

...papyrus?





OKAY...

OKAY...

DEEP BREATHS...

...bro...?

you okay...?

...THE GREAT PAPYRUS IS ALWAYS OKAY.

...huh, now i know how you feel when i say that.

what's up?

you seem a little, uh...

upset.

about something.

I DON'T GET IT, SANS.

get what?

THIS!!

I DON'T GET THIS!!

WE'RE HERE, WE'RE RIGHT HERE, THIS HAS TO BE WHERE WE CAME FROM, THIS HAS TO BE IT,

AND I STILL CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING!

I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING! I'M TRYING AND TRYING

AND ALL I CAN REMEMBER IS ASGORE'S HOUSE, AND I KNOW THE ANSWER IS HERE!

WE'RE DOING EVERYTHING RIGHT,

WE SHOULD BE REMEMBERING!

BUT WE'RE NOT,

IT'S NOT WORKING,

AND IT,

IT MAKES ME FEEL...

IT MAKES ME FEEL DUMB.

THAT I CAN'T FIGURE IT OUT, EVEN WITH ALL THE PIECES IN FRONT OF ME.

hey hey, you're not dumb.

i can't figure it out either, right?

it's not you. it's both of us.

...I DON'T UNDERSTAND, SANS.

WHAT DOES ANY OF THIS MEAN? WHAT DO ALL THESE LITTLE PIECES MEAN?

i dunno.

maybe nothin.



I DON'T UNDERSTAND, ASGORE SAID PARENTS ARE SUPPOSED TO LOVE THEIR CHILDREN...

...WHY DID THEY ABANDON US?

WHAT DID WE DO WRONG?

yeah, but...

you know, so far, most "supposed to"s don't seem to apply to us.

I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHO THEY ARE.

I WANT TO KNOW WHY WE WEREN'T GOOD ENOUGH FOR THEM.

hey, don't think like that okay?

who even needs those bums anyway?

they're the ones who ditched us in the first place.

it's their loss, right?

...I KEEP FEELING LIKE IT WAS MY FAULT,

LIKE IF I'D JUST DONE SOMETHING DIFFERENTLY...

even if it was, and i bet it wasn't, what kinda jerk would kick out their kids for makin a mistake?

i'll tell you - real scumbags, that's who.

and we don't need any scumbags.

all we need is each other.

(SIGH)

...DOES IT REALLY NOT BOTHER YOU THAT YOU CAN'T REMEMBER?

nah, it drives me nuts.

if we can't change it, we just gotta accept it, you know?

but we did everythin we could here to fix it and we can't, so it's like...

it's just how things are.

HEH...

YOU REALLY ARE SO LAZY.

i'm an expert.

you feeling any better?

...SORRY ABOUT GETTING SO ANGRY.

USUALLY I CAN CONTROL EVERY THING BUT THIS TIME, I...

I'VE GOT TO TRY HARDER.

bro. there ain't no one in the world that tries harder than you,

all day every day.

don't feel bad about getting mad.

it's worth gettin mad about,

it sucks.

and if you wanna mess up all the rooms, i'll be right there with you.

we're in this together.

...THANKS, SANS.

no problem.

...OF ALL THE THINGS I DON'T UNDERSTAND,

I DON'T KNOW WHY THEY ABANDONED YOU THE MOST.

aw, don't say things like that.

you're the real star.

...

...WE BOTH GOT SOMETHING WRONG WITH US.

yeah, but we're the ones with a cool house and awesome skeleton flag, so who cares?

we're doin better than them, wherever they even are.

i don't see any skull flags in here.

YEAH...

YEAH, THAT'S TRUE.

ALRIGHT...

ALRIGHT, LET'S GO, SANS.



yeah uh, this door ain't closin again any time soon.

I GUESS WE REALLY BROKE IT.

well, it doesn't matter, there's nothin in there anyway. i bet most people aren't gonna want to walk on magic glass to see some boring empty rooms.

I GUESS...

...

hey, i got somethin that i know will cheer you up.

?

when you were throwin everything around, something fell out of one of the boxes...

A KEY...?

OH MY GOD!

i'd bet on it.

SANS, DO YOU THINK THAT'S THE KEY TO THE BACKROOM?

SANS, OH, THIS IS FANTASTIC!

WE CAN FINALLY SEE WHAT'S IN THAT ROOM TOGETHER!!

OH SANS!

FINALLY THE HOUSE WILL REALLY BE ALL OURS!

heh, so now you can't say we didn't get anything outta doing this.

YEAH, THAT'S TRUE. AND I BET WHATEVER'S IN THAT ROOM WILL BE INCREDIBLY COOL!

just not our memories.

YEAH...

ANOTHER VICTORY FOR THE GREAT PAPYRUS! COME ON, SANS! LET'S GO HOME!



ready?

READY!



TOGETHER!

together.

one...

TWO...



THREE!



I WAS EXPECTING SOMETHING COOLER.



you're always expecting something cooler.

WELL, I AM A SKELETON WITH VERY HIGH EXPECTATIONS FOR LIFE!

i know. let's take a look around.

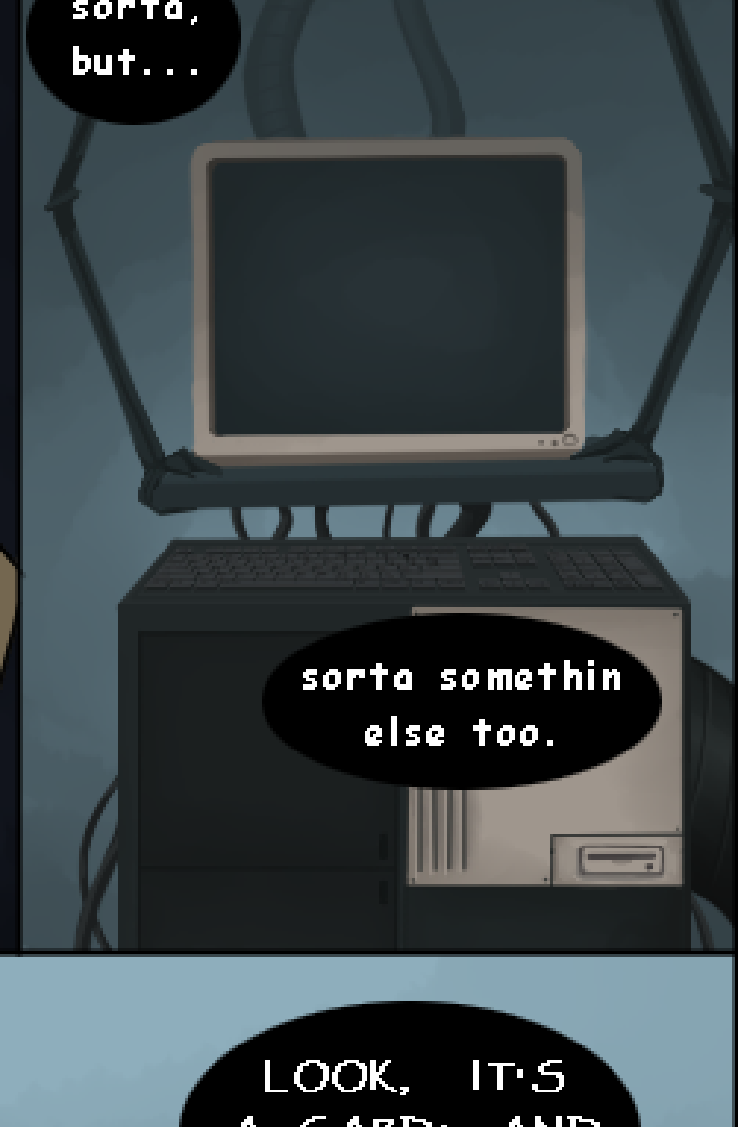


huh, something behind this curtain ...

looks like some kinda machine.

IS IT A COMPUTER?

sorta, but...



sorta somethin else too.



LOOK, I FOUND A HARD CARD!

a what?

hmm... kinda familiar ...



oh, it's an id badge. for...

no one. huh.



LOOK, IT'S A CARD! AND IT'S HARD.

RIGHT, LIKE I SAID. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS?



looks like blueprints to me.

WELL, OBVIOUSLY. THEY'RE BLUE AND HAVE PRINT!

CAN YOU READ ANY OF IT?



HMM... I DON'T KNOW. WE ALREADY HAVE BED ROOMS...

what should we do with this room?

ARE THERE OTHER NORMAL ROOMS PEOPLE HAVE?

some people have work rooms.

OH, LET'S MAKE IT A WORK ROOM THEN! HOW DOES THAT SOUND?

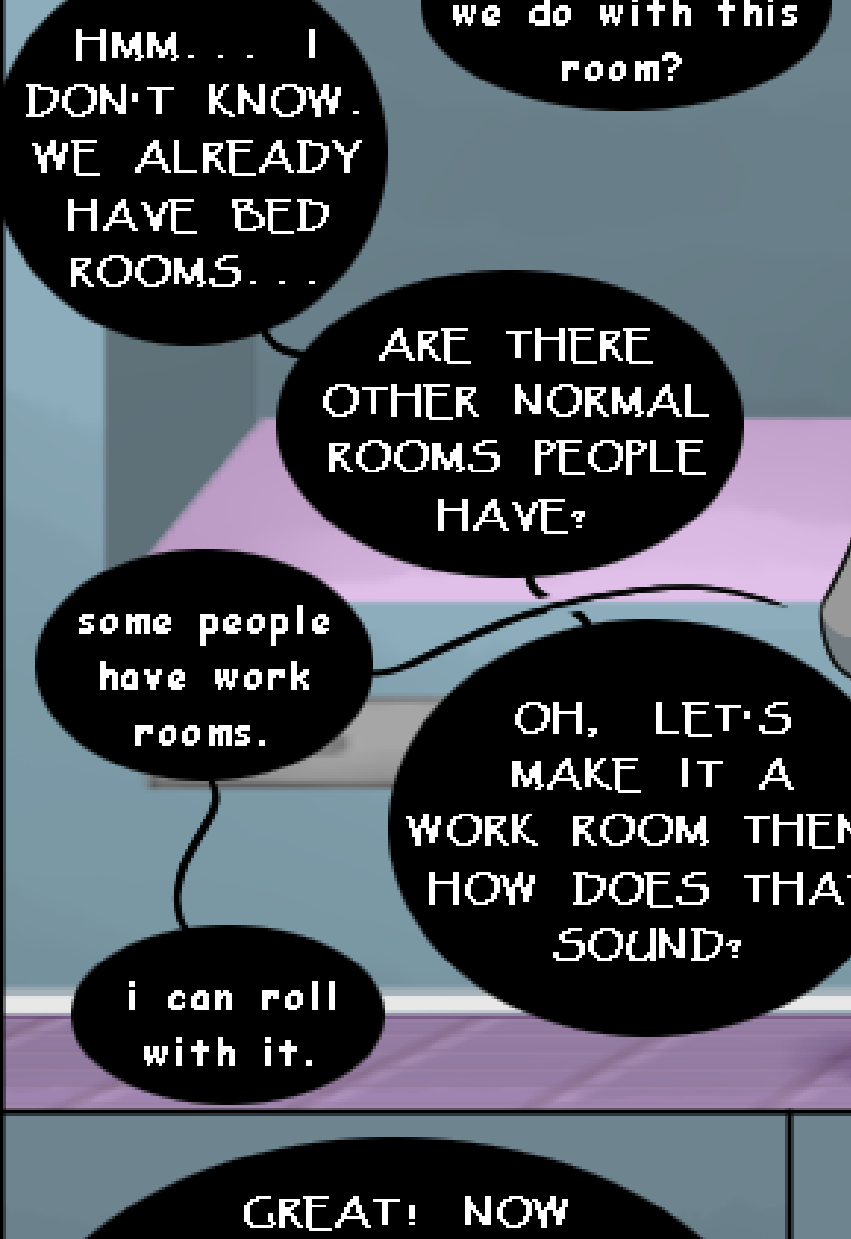
i can roll with it.



nah... i think some of it's missing.

EVERYTHING IS ALWAYS MISSING PARTS. I FOR ONE AM TIRED OF IT, SANS!

i hear ya.



HMM... I DON'T KNOW. WE ALREADY HAVE BED ROOMS...

what should we do with this room?

ARE THERE OTHER NORMAL ROOMS PEOPLE HAVE?

some people have work rooms.

OH, LET'S MAKE IT A WORK ROOM THEN! HOW DOES THAT SOUND?

i can roll with it.



YES, THAT. COME ON! WE'RE NOT GOING TO GRILLBY'S.

aw. but it'd put your mind at gr-eease.



GREAT! NOW THAT THAT'S ACCOMPLISHED, LET'S GET SOMETHING TO EAT! I HAVE HAD AN EXTREMELY LONG PERIOD OF TIME DOING THINGS!

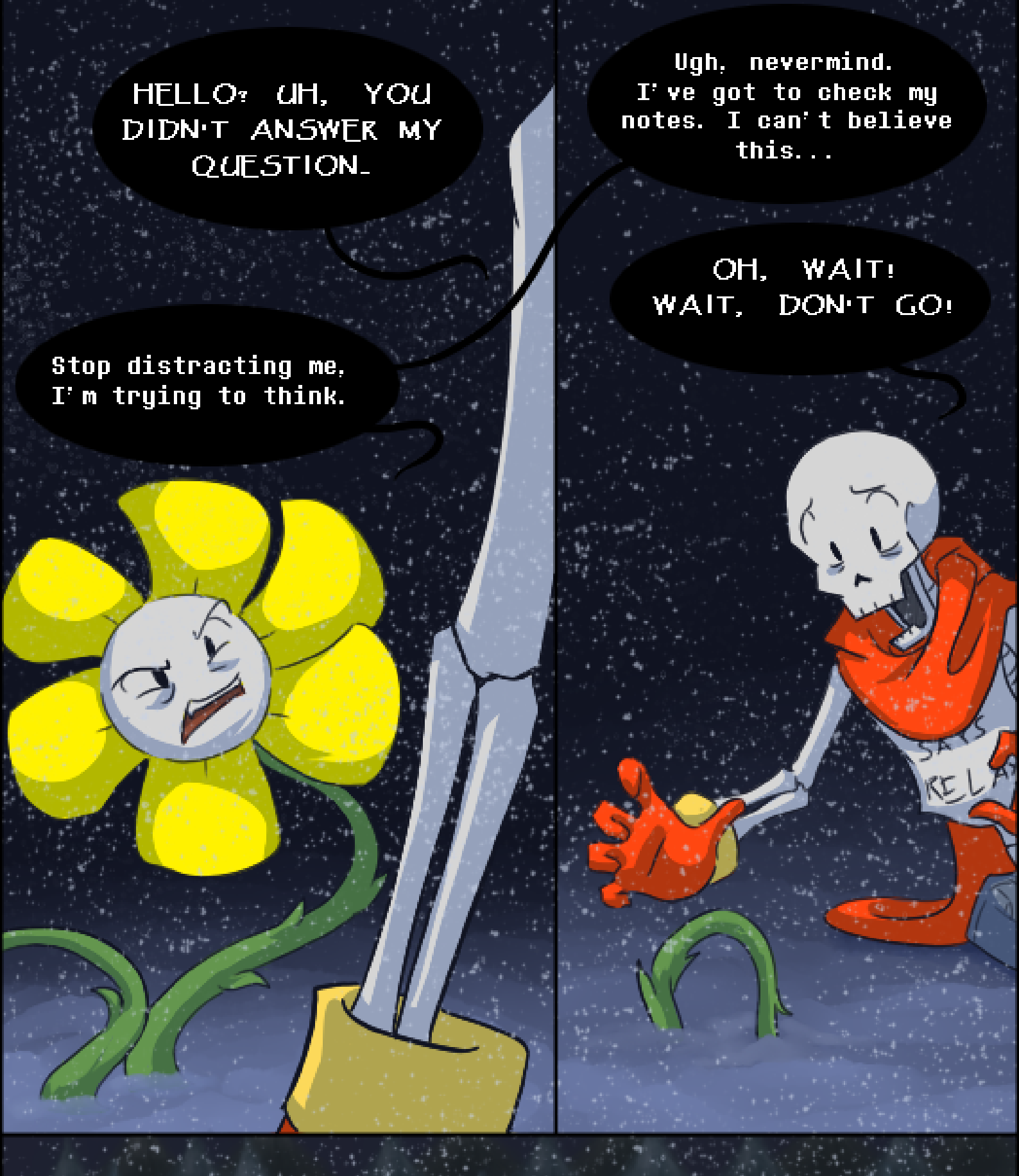
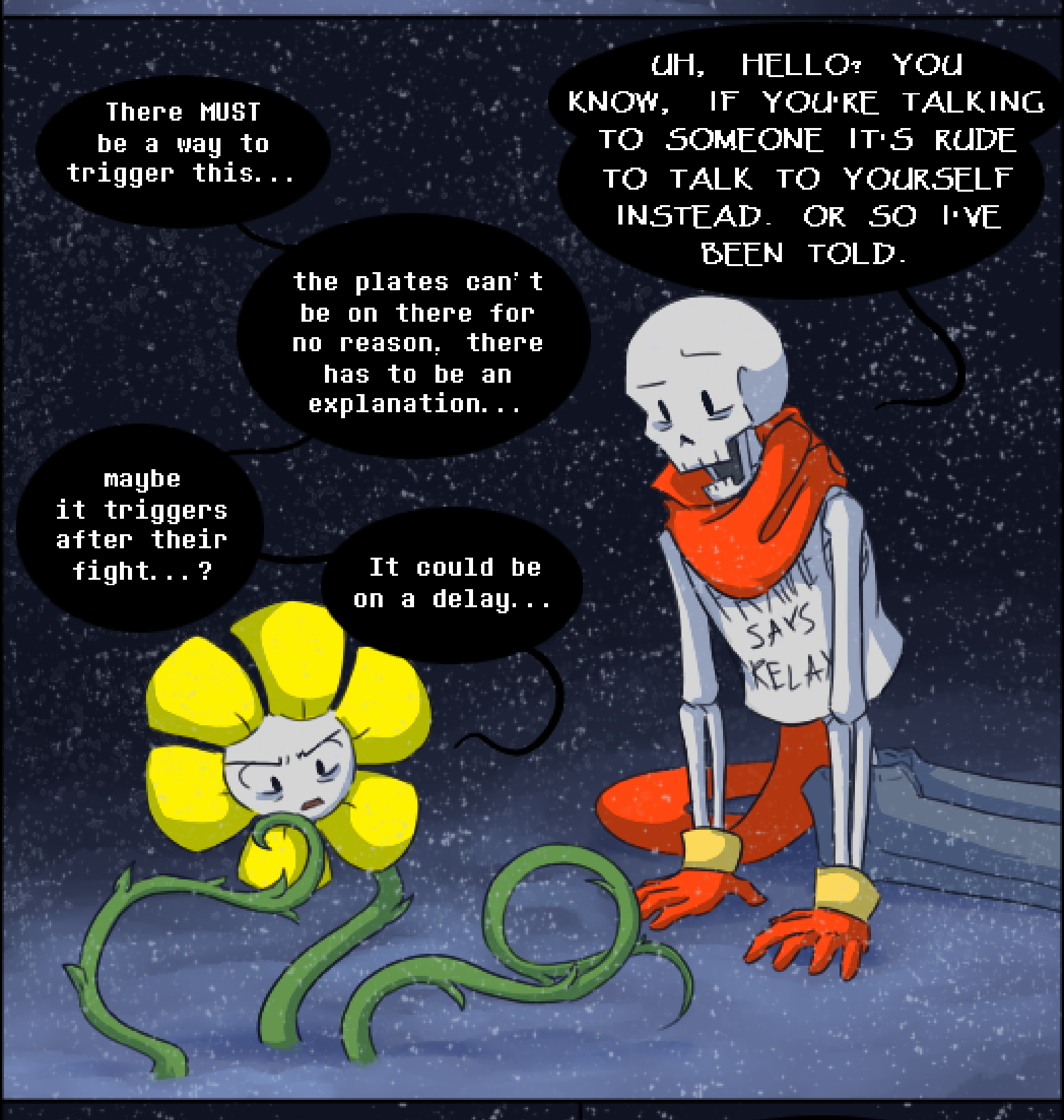
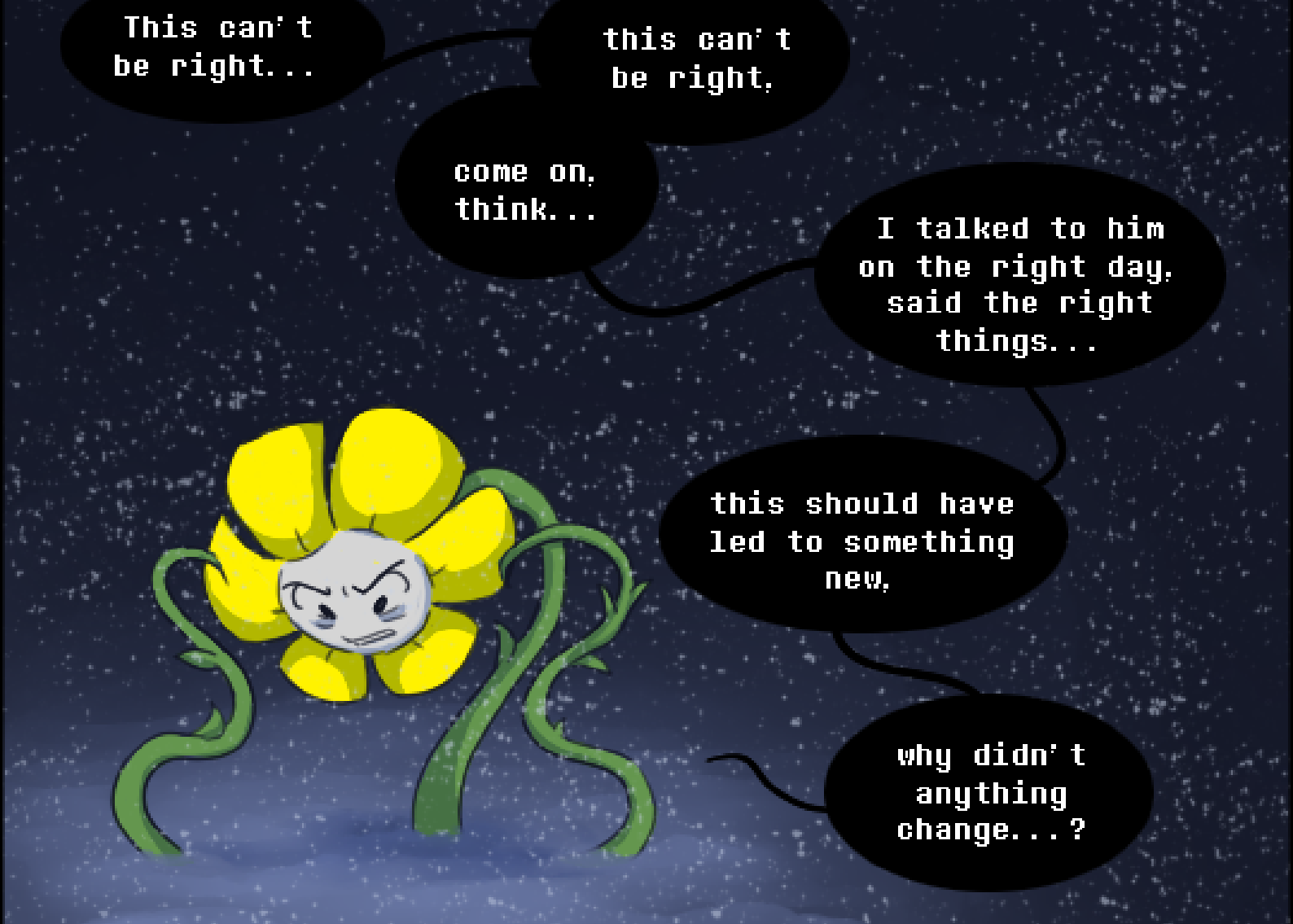
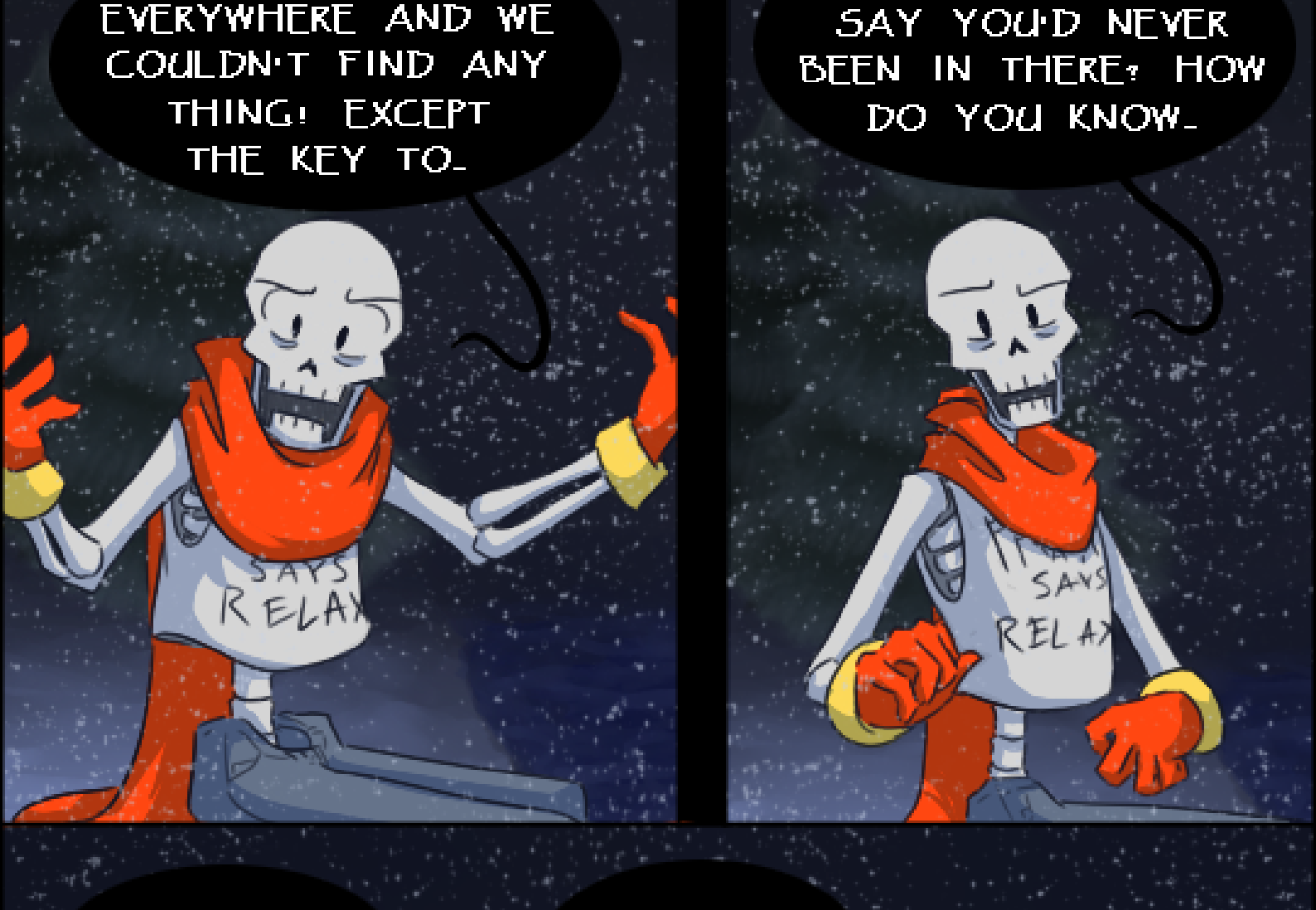
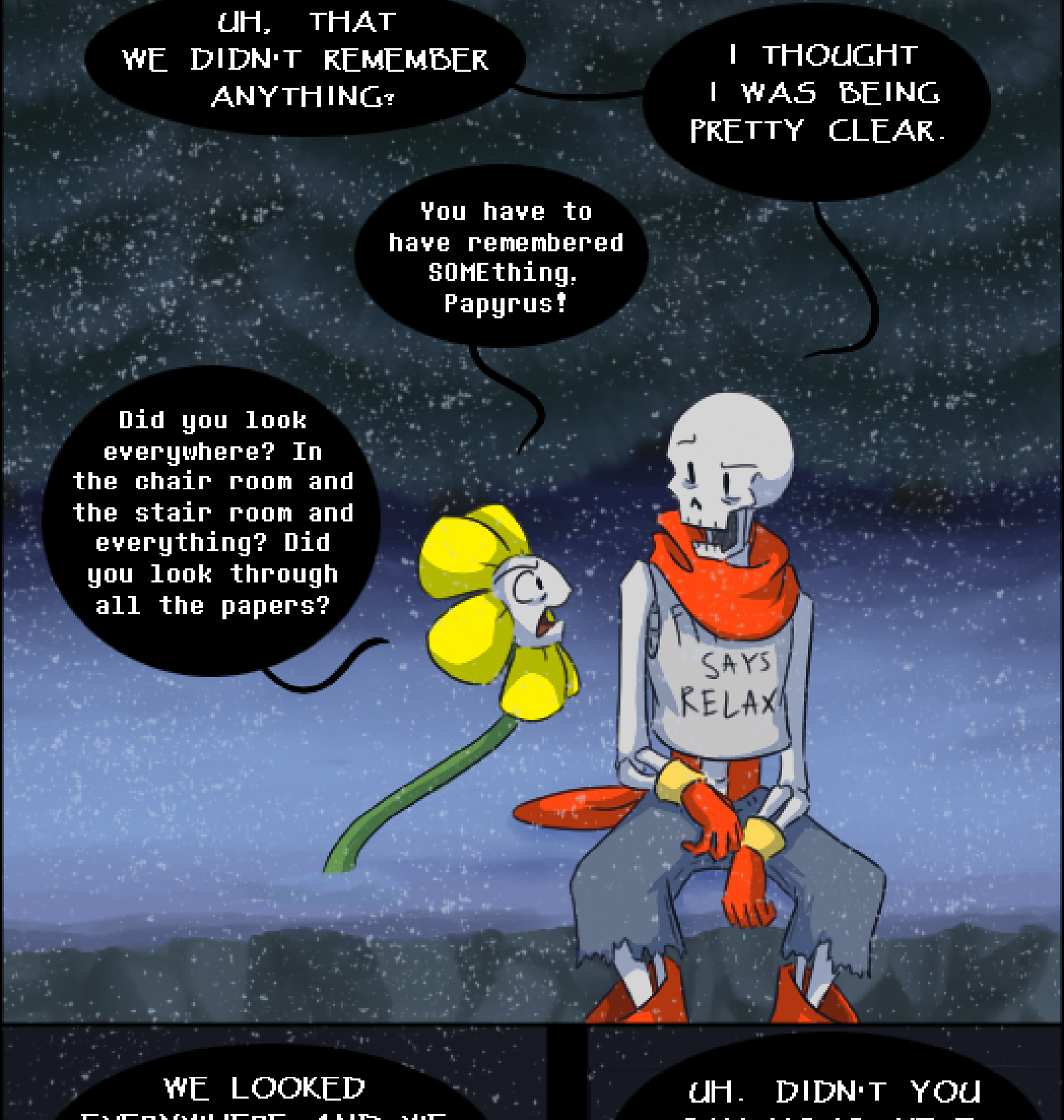
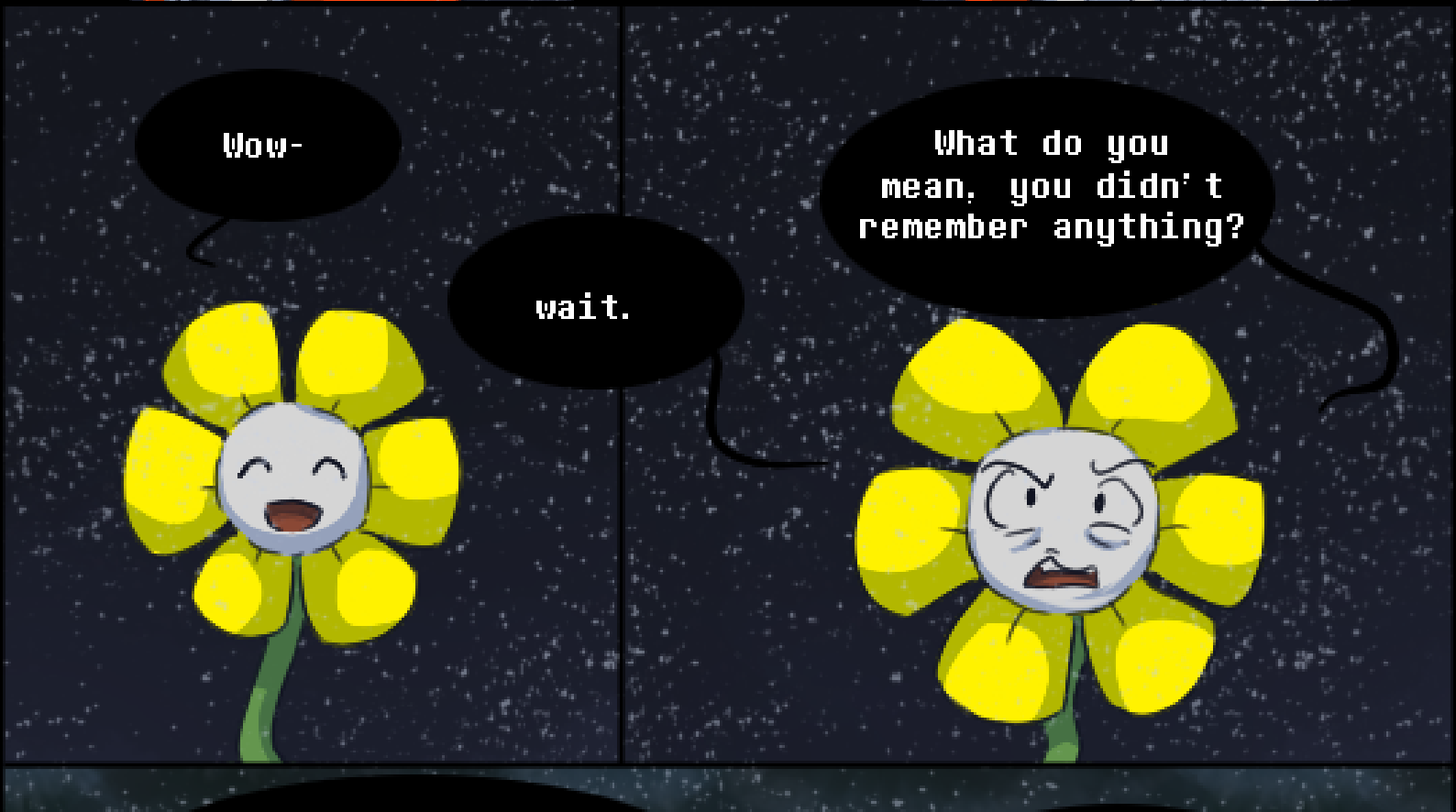
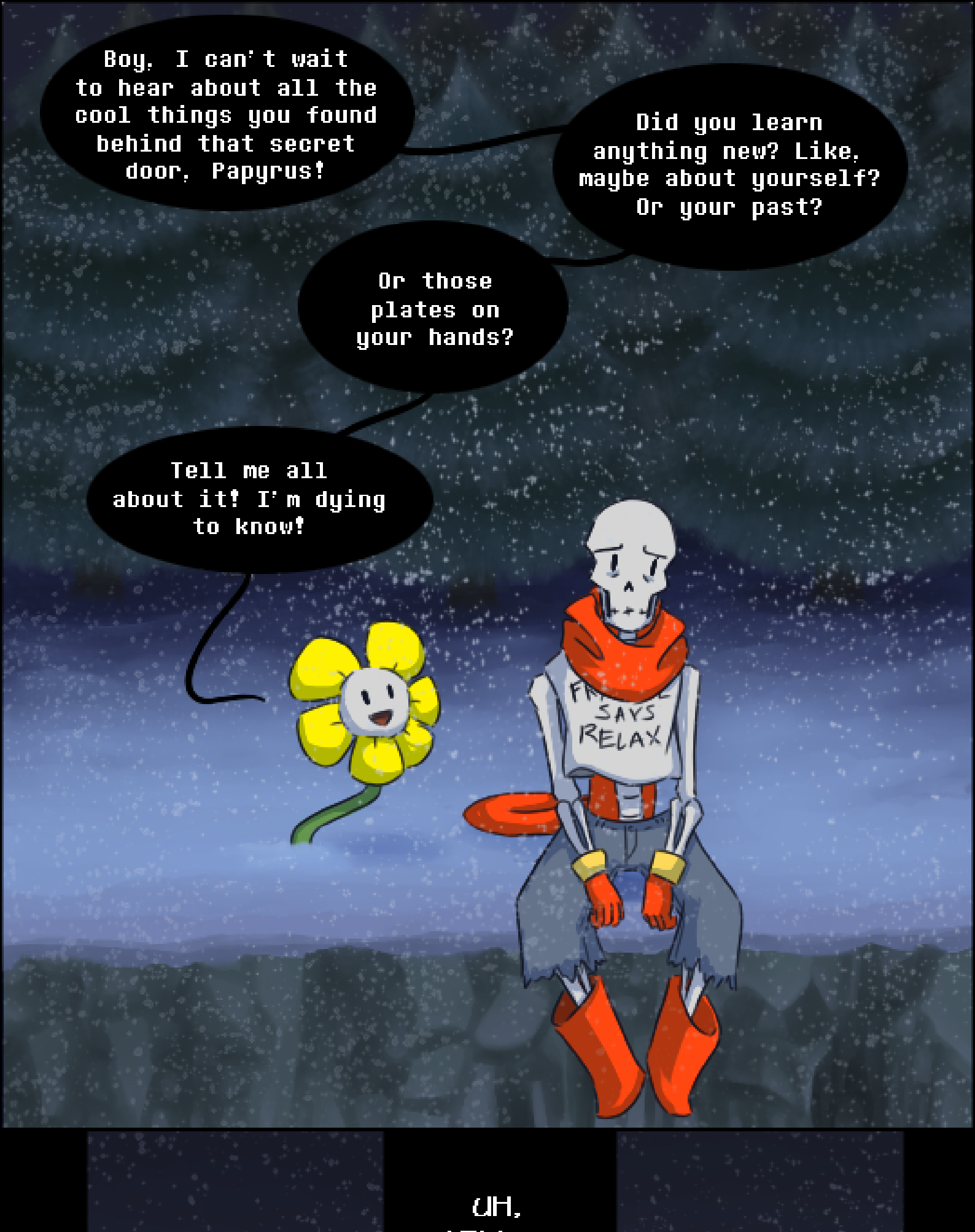
a long day.



UGH!

ALTHOUGH, AT LEAST THAT ONE HAD A LITTLE EFFORT...

COME ON!





I've ruined everything.



What I've done... no one will ever forgive me.

I can't forgive *myself*.

They trusted me, they believed in me, and I...



I let them all down.

I let them all believe in a lie, because I was too scared to tell them who I really was.

I let everyone down.



And I'm such a coward, they still don't even know...

every day they keep writing and calling me, and I can't...

I can't face them...

I can't even tell them the truth...



Not that it'd do any good anyway...

All my mistakes.

there's no way to fix what I've done.

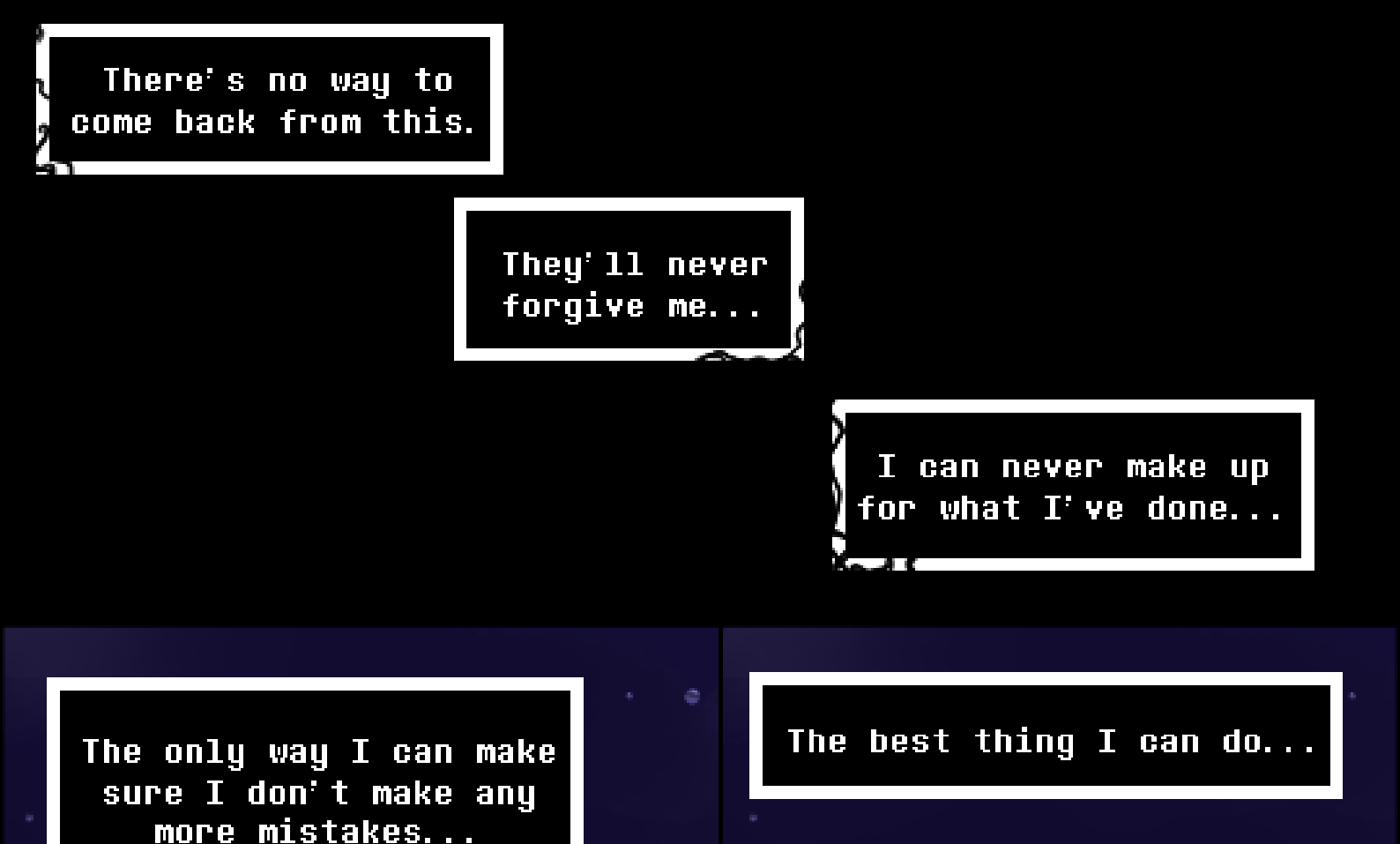
It's not enough that I'm just an imposter, but the lives I've ruined...



so many lives, and it's all my fault...

they trusted me, and...

and all I've done is hurt people...



There's no way to come back from this.

They'll never forgive me...

I can never make up for what I've done...



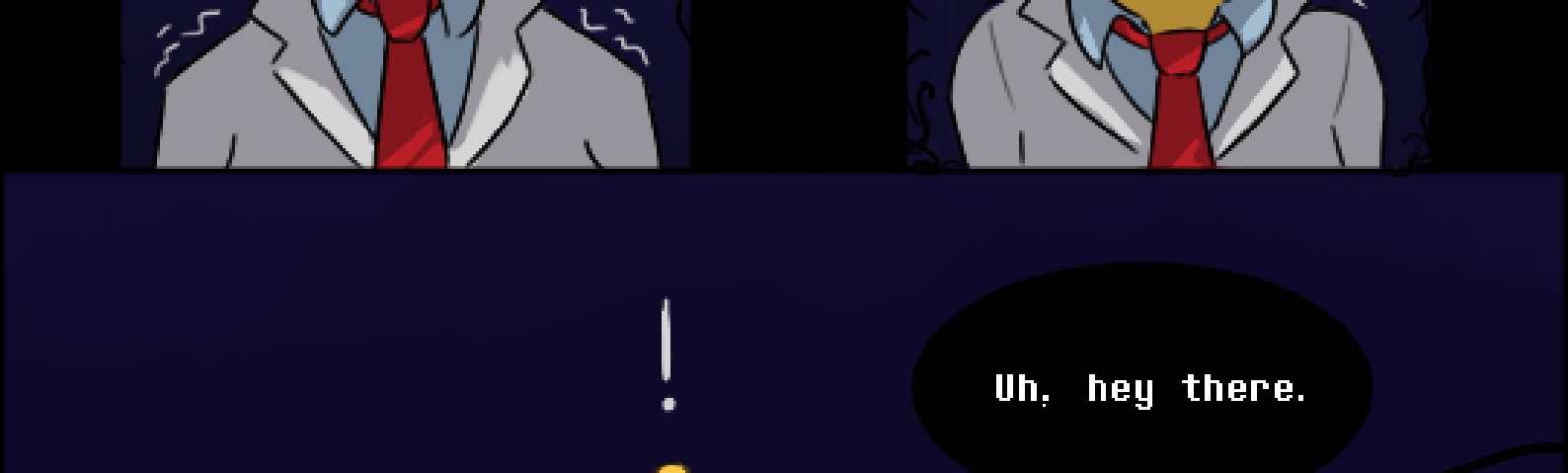
The only way I can make sure I don't make any more mistakes...

The best thing I can do...



that I don't hurt anyone else...

is just...



disappear...

Uh, hey there.



You look, uh...

thoughtful.

Are you thinking about the abyss?

Where do you think it goes?





why don't you
do that attack faster?
i know you can.

I COULD,
BUT THAT WOULDN'T
BE FAIR FOR MY
OPPONENT, SANS!

THEY'D BE
INSTANTLY DEFEATED
AND THUS ROBBED OF
SEEING ANY OF MY
OTHER COOL
BULLET PATTERNS,
INCLUDING MY NEW
SPECIAL ATTACK!!



just do it
in the first turn,
then they're toast
and bada bing, you're
done.

SANS!
THAT IS
A VERY LAZY
ATTITUDE!

WHEN WE'RE
ROYAL GUARDS
SOMEDAY, WE'LL
HAVE TO TRY OUR
VERY BEST TO
IMPRESS OUR
HUMAN
ADVERSARIES!



i think
it's more
"efficient" than
lazy...

IT'S LAZY!
AND DON'T RIDE
YOUR BLASTER
AROUND, THAT'S
NOT WHAT THEY'RE
FOR!

if i'm usin
it for it, then
that is what
it's for, when
you think
about it.



NO IT'S
NOT!

UGH! IT'S
SO FRUSTRATING
WHEN YOU DO
THIS, SANS!

you can ride yours
too if you want.
it'd probably like
the exercise.

THAT'S NOT
WHAT I MEAN!



I KNOW
YOU'RE GOOD
AT SPARKING
BUT YOU NEVER
WANT TO TRY!
YOU JUST WANT
TO DO AS LITTLE
AS POSSIBLE
WHEN I KNOW
YOU COULD DO
BETTER!

see,
that's
efficiency
again...

YOU COULD
DO SO MUCH
MORE THAN
WHAT YOU'RE
DOING,
SANS! THINK
ABOUT THE
COOL THINGS
YOU COULD
DO WITH YOUR
SHORTCUTS!
YOU COULD
DO A LOT OF
THINGS I
CAN'T BUT
YOU AREN'T
EVEN THINKING
ABOUT THE
POSSIBILITIES!



who am i even
gonna fight with
except you anyway?
with my "condition"
and all.

it's pretty
pointless if you
think about it.

TRYING TO
GET BETTER IS
NEVER POINTLESS,
SANS!



i mean...

up to a
certain point it
kind of is.

sometimes things
just got limits.

i ain't ever
gonna be more
than my "condition",
so-

UGH,
SANS,
DON'T BE
MELODRAMATIC!



OF COURSE
YOU'RE MORE THAN THAT!
THE WHOLE POINT OF
THIS IS PROVING THAT
YOU CAN DO EVERYTHING
ANYWAY!

pff,
proving it to
who? you?



I ALREADY
KNOW YOU CAN DO
IT, SANS!

THAT'S WHY
I'M ANNOYED!

YOU'VE GOT
TO PROVE IT
TO YOU!



...heh, what
was it...

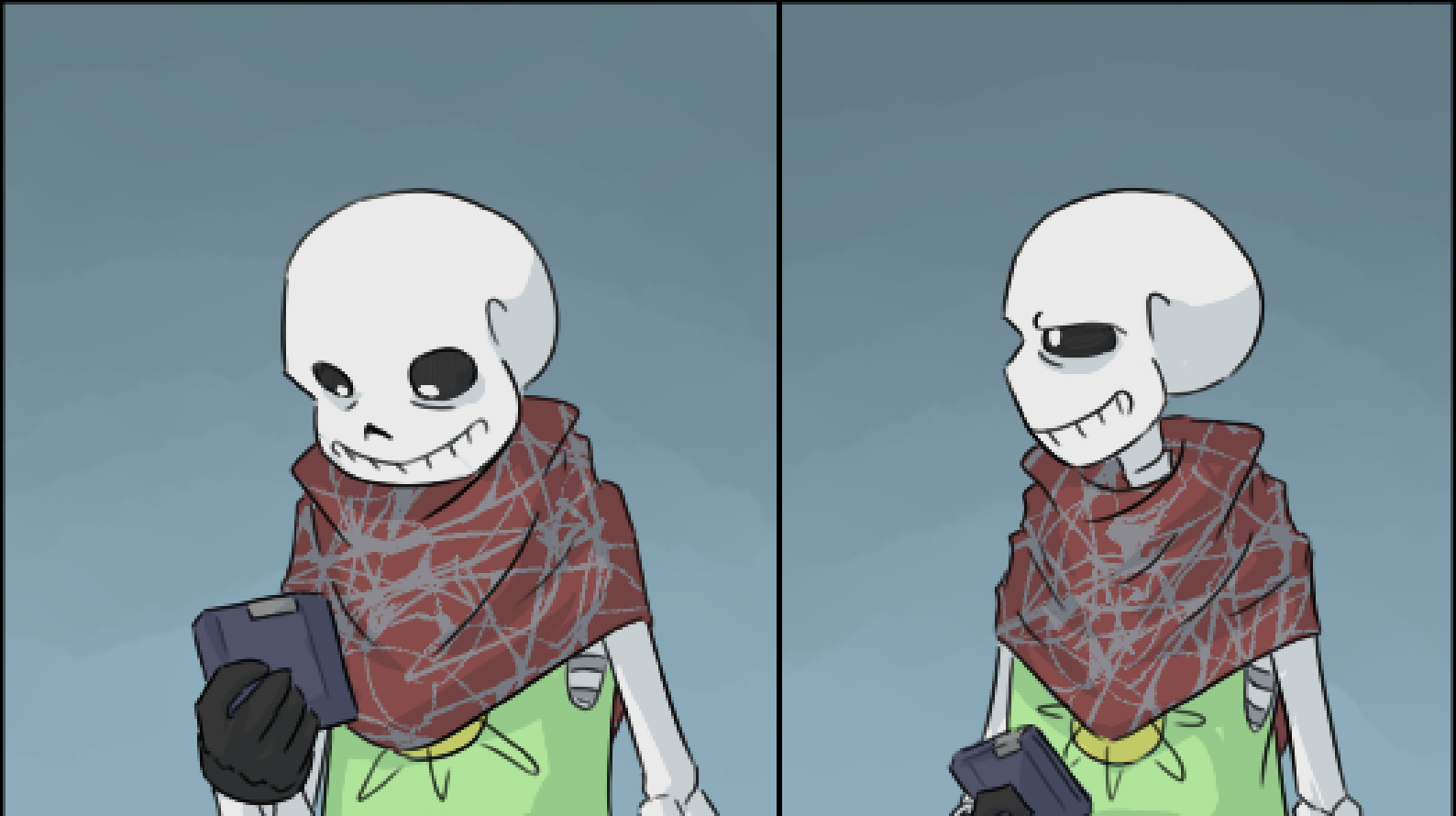
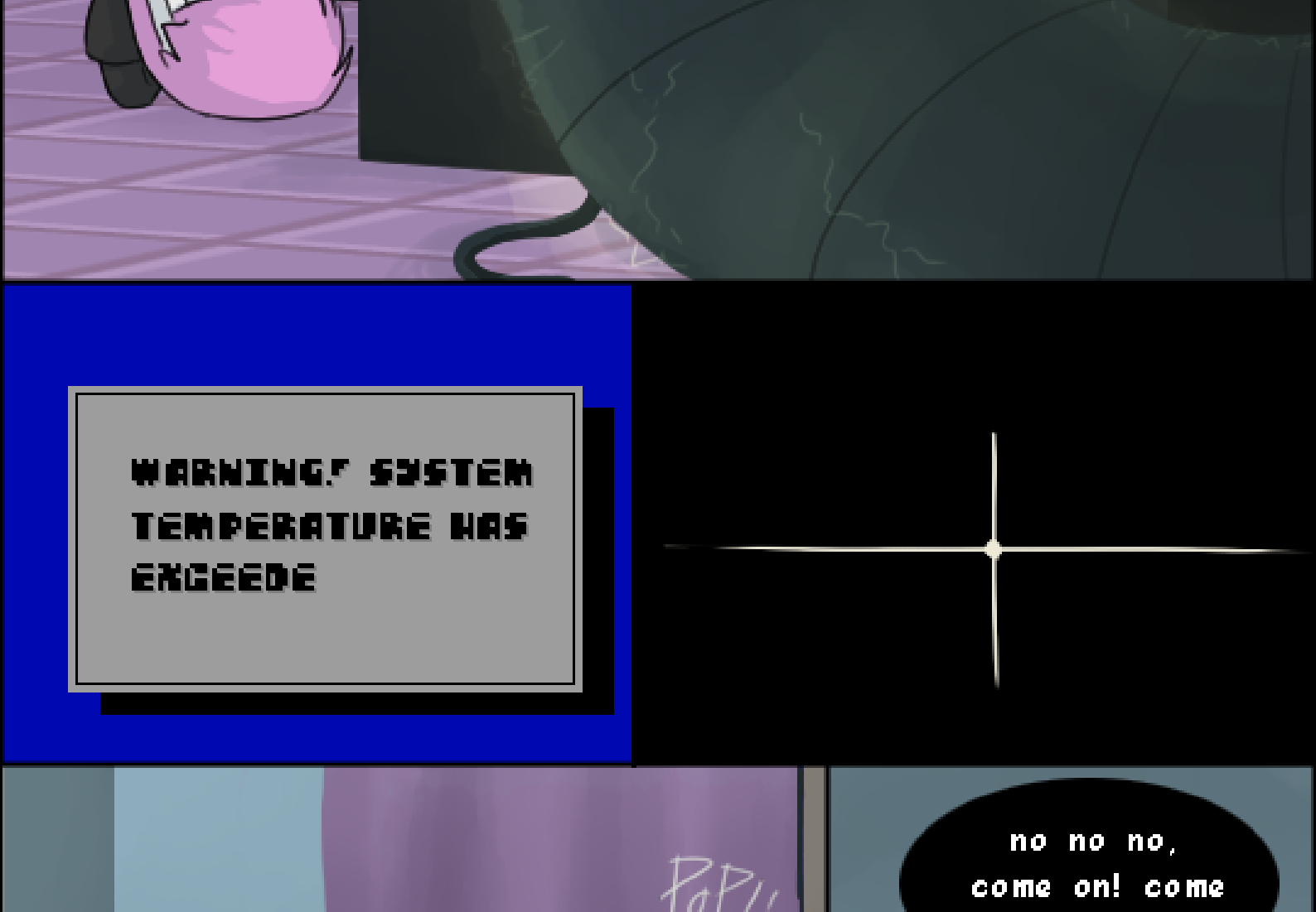
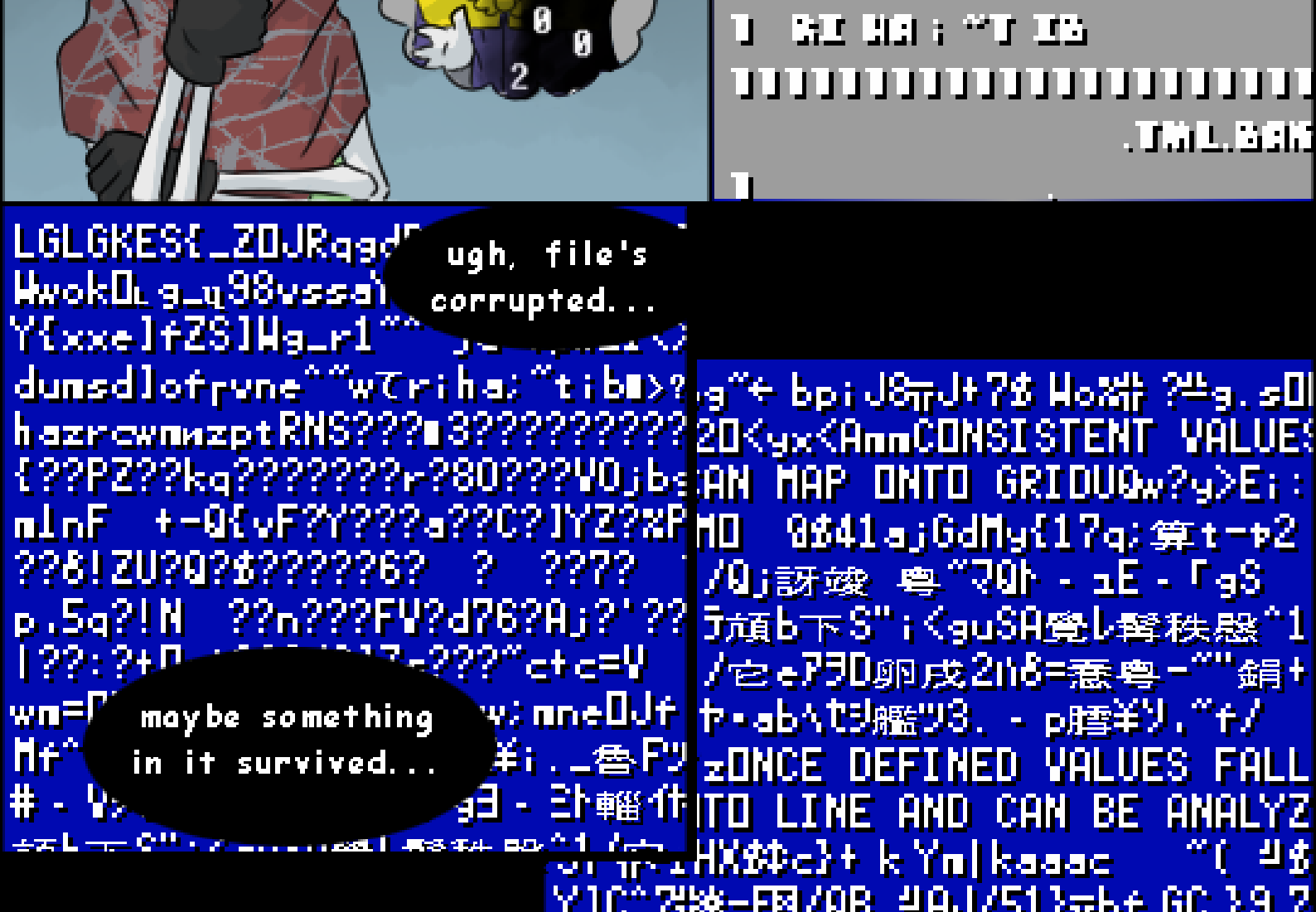
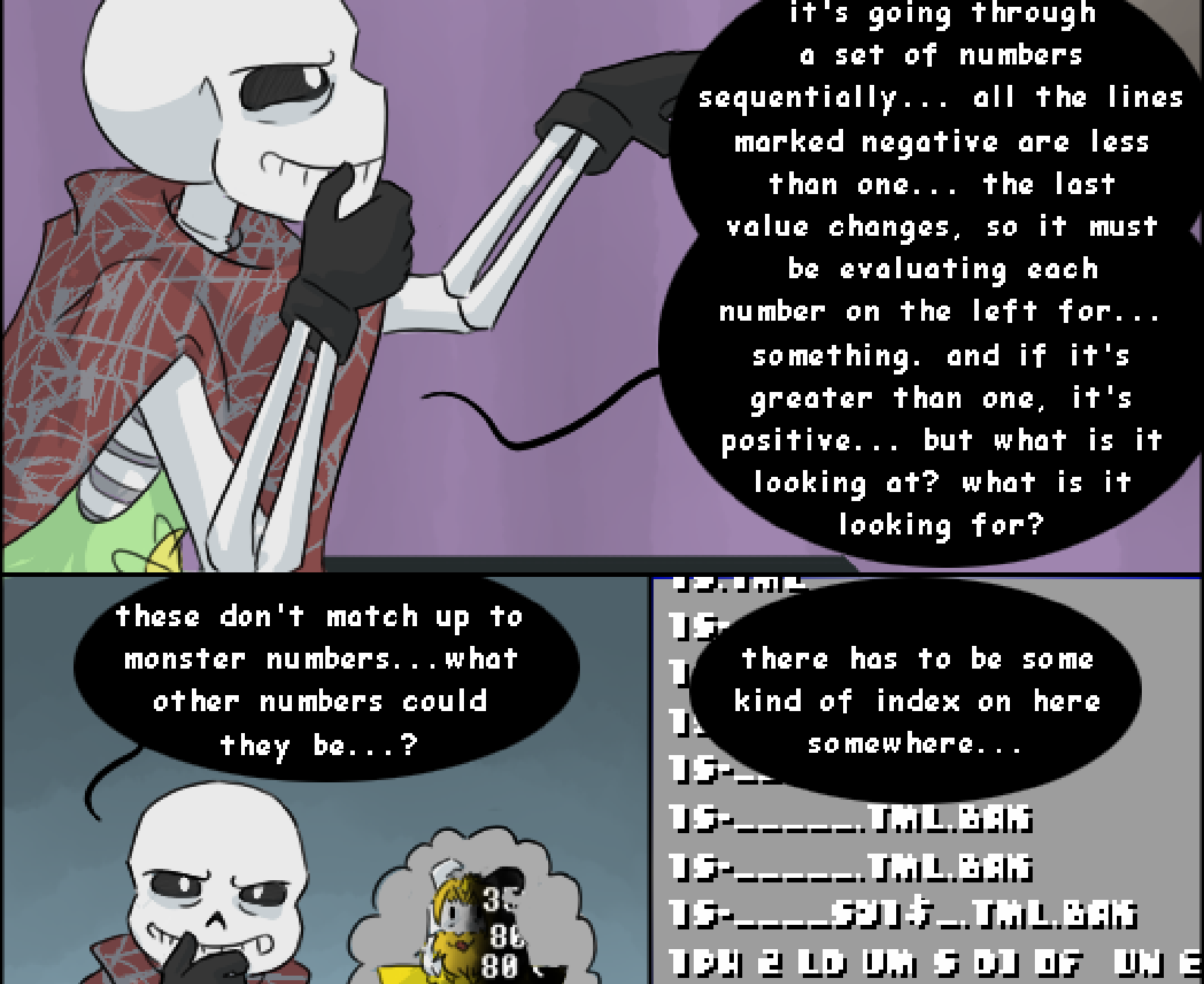
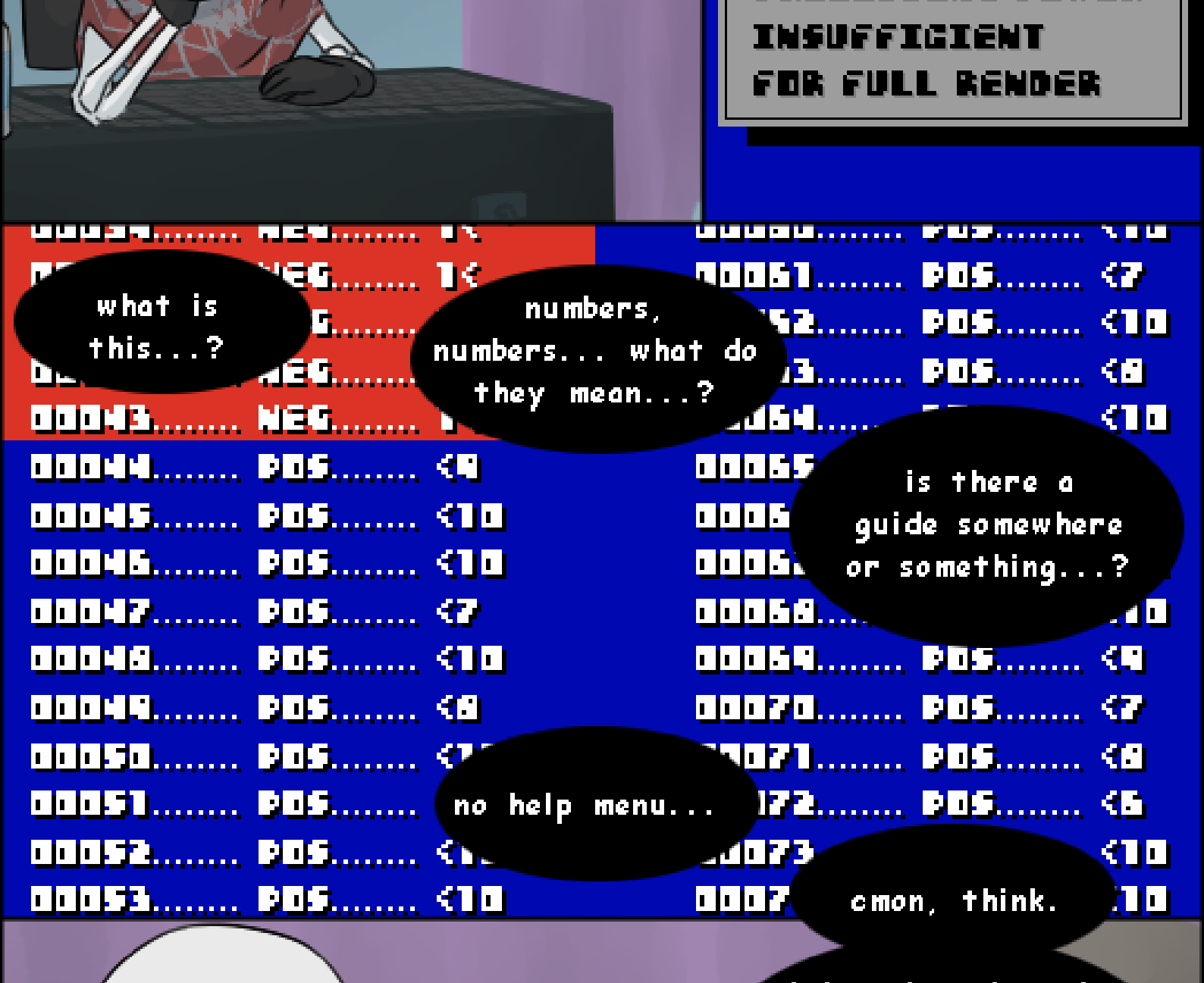
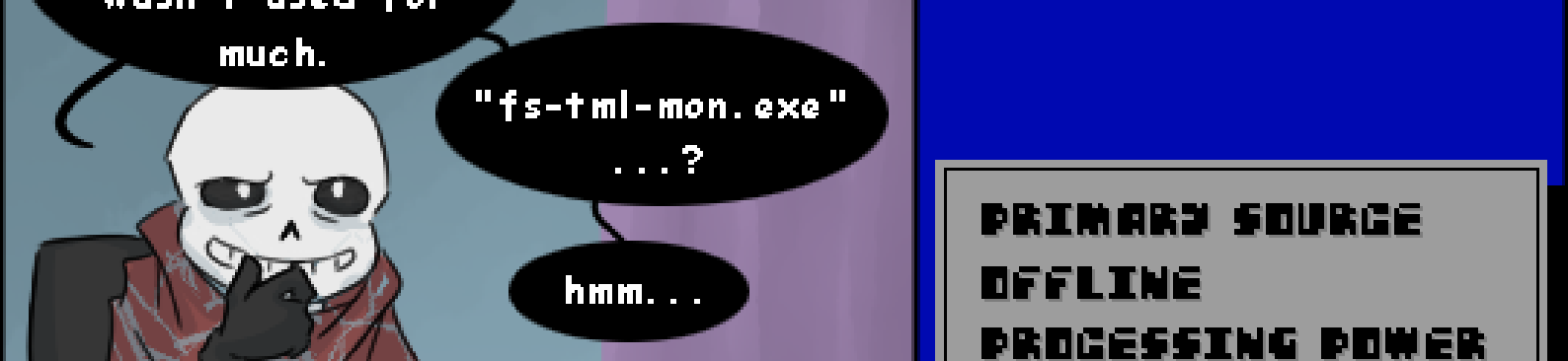
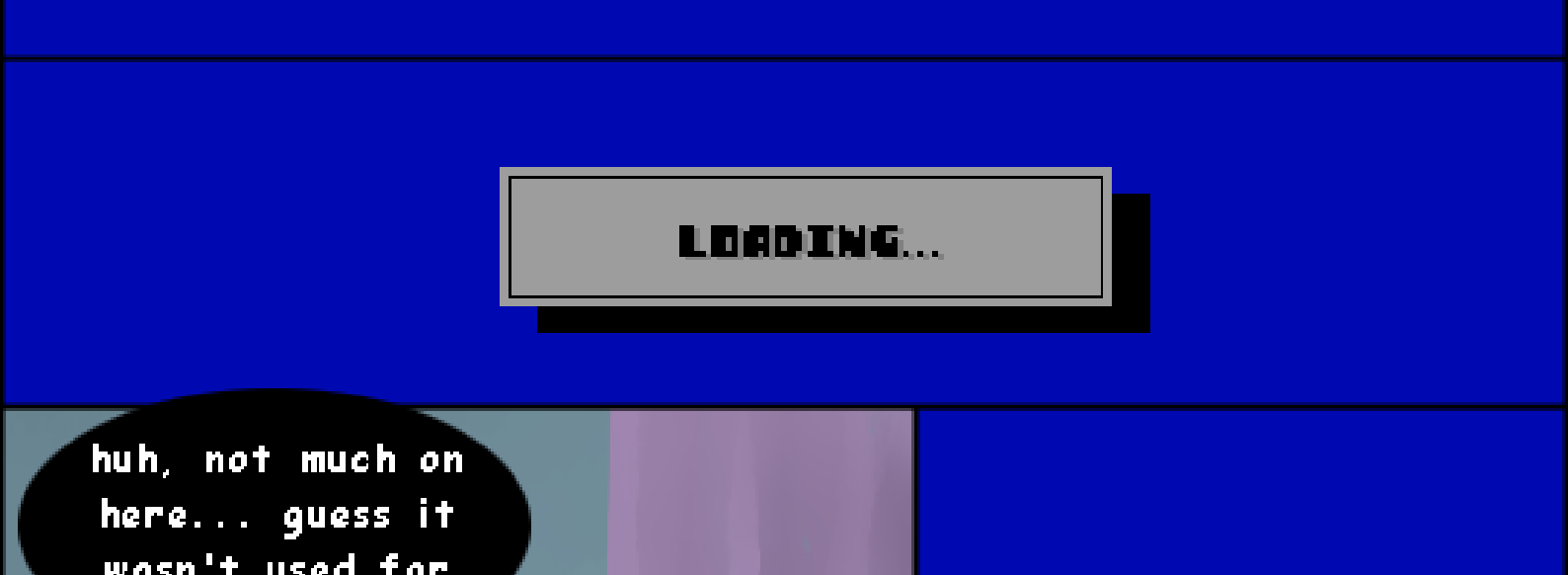
"frustratingly
good at knowing
what to say?"



alright,
alright, fine.

but you
gonna help me
think of a really
cool special
attack.

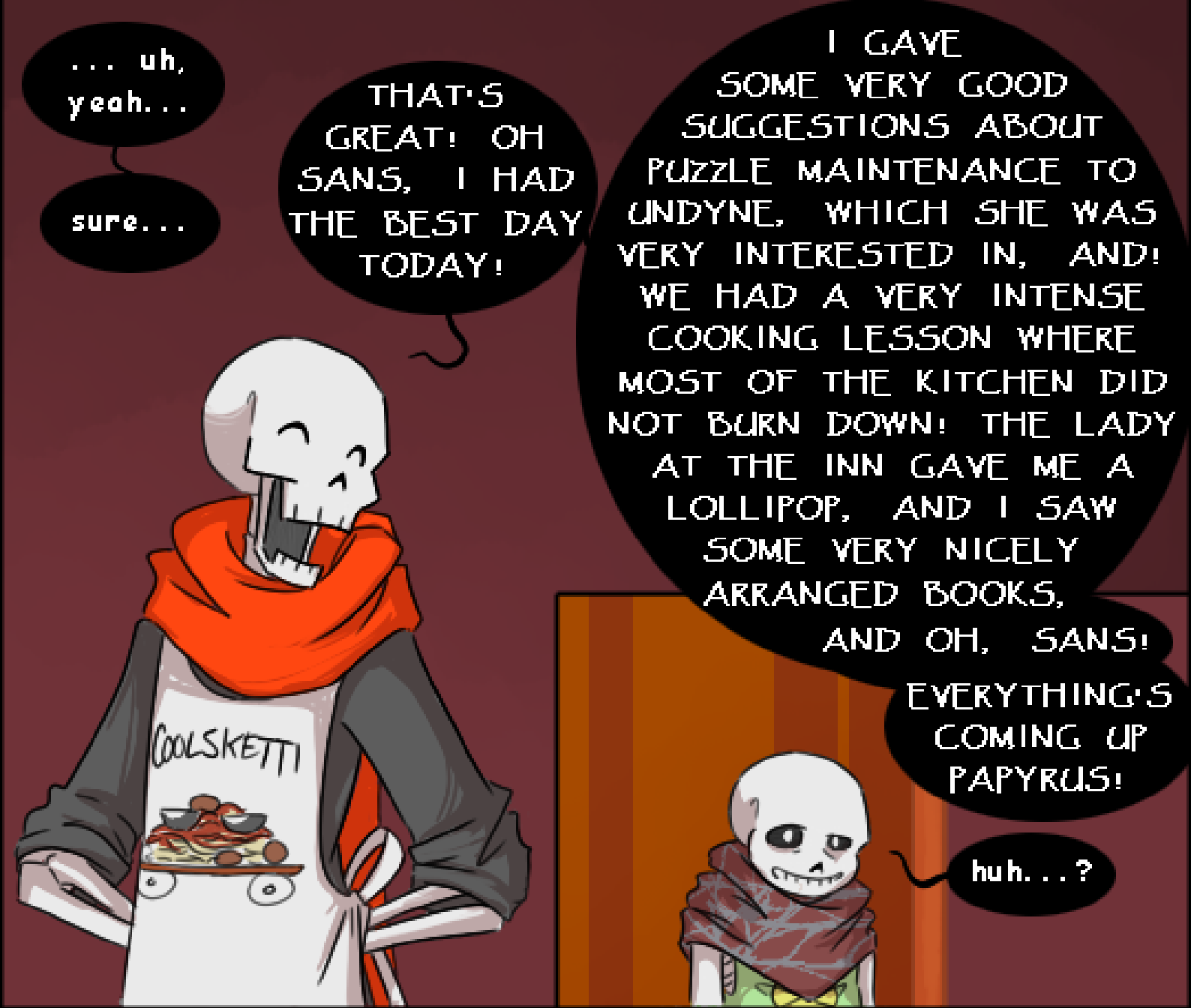
OF COURSE!!
THAT'S MY
SPECIALTY!





OH THERE YOU ARE, SANS!

WERE YOU HAVING FUN IN THE WORKROOM?



... uh, yeah...

sure...

THAT'S GREAT! OH SANS, I HAD THE BEST DAY TODAY!

I GAVE SOME VERY GOOD SUGGESTIONS ABOUT PUZZLE MAINTENANCE TO UNDYNE, WHICH SHE WAS VERY INTERESTED IN, AND! WE HAD A VERY INTENSE COOKING LESSON WHERE MOST OF THE KITCHEN DID NOT BURN DOWN! THE LADY AT THE INN GAVE ME A LOLLIPOP, AND I SAW SOME VERY NICELY ARRANGED BOOKS,

AND OH, SANS!

EVERYTHING'S COMING UP PAPYRUS!

huh...?



IT'S A PHRASE I LEARNED FROM ONE OF THE TEENAGERS!

EVERYTHING'S BEEN SO WONDERFUL TODAY!

EVERYTHING!



everything...

I'M SO HAPPY! TODAY HAS BEEN PERFECT! IF EVERY DAY COULD BE LIKE TODAY, THEN I'D BE THE HAPPIEST SKELETON IN THE UNDERGROUND, AS WELL AS THE TALLEST AND THE MOST HANDSOME! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, BUT YOU WERE RIGHT! WE DON'T NEED TO REMEMBER ANYTHING AT ALL! EVERYTHING CAN BE WONDERFUL JUST AS WE ARE!



right...

right, yeah.

definitely.

DID YOU GET A LOT DONE IN THE WORKROOM? I'VE BEEN DOING A LOT IN THE KITCHEN! I MADE A QUICHE! IT'S ALMOST DONE, WE JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE FLAMES TO GO OUT!



uh, yeah.

uh... i did a skele-ton, heh.

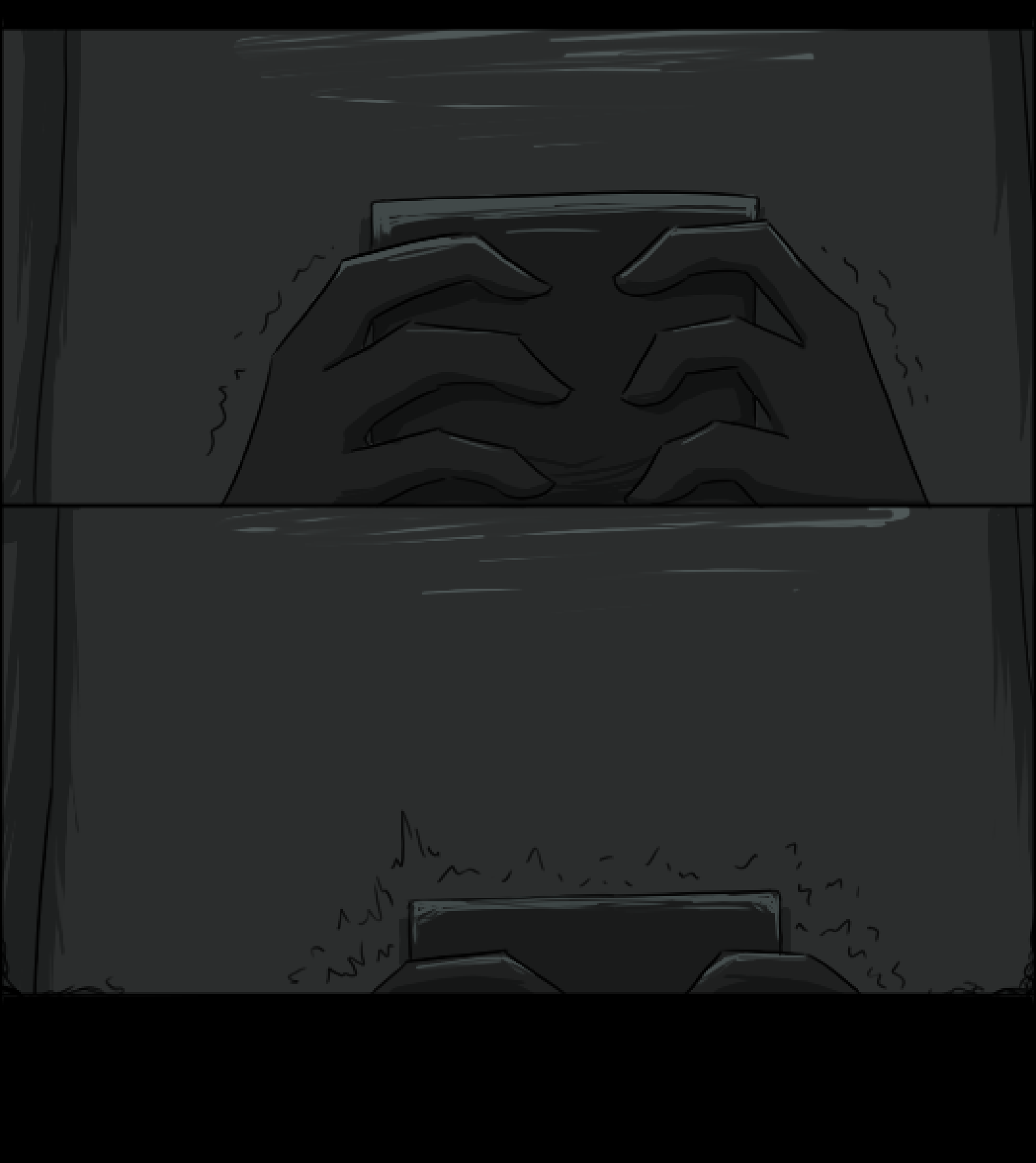
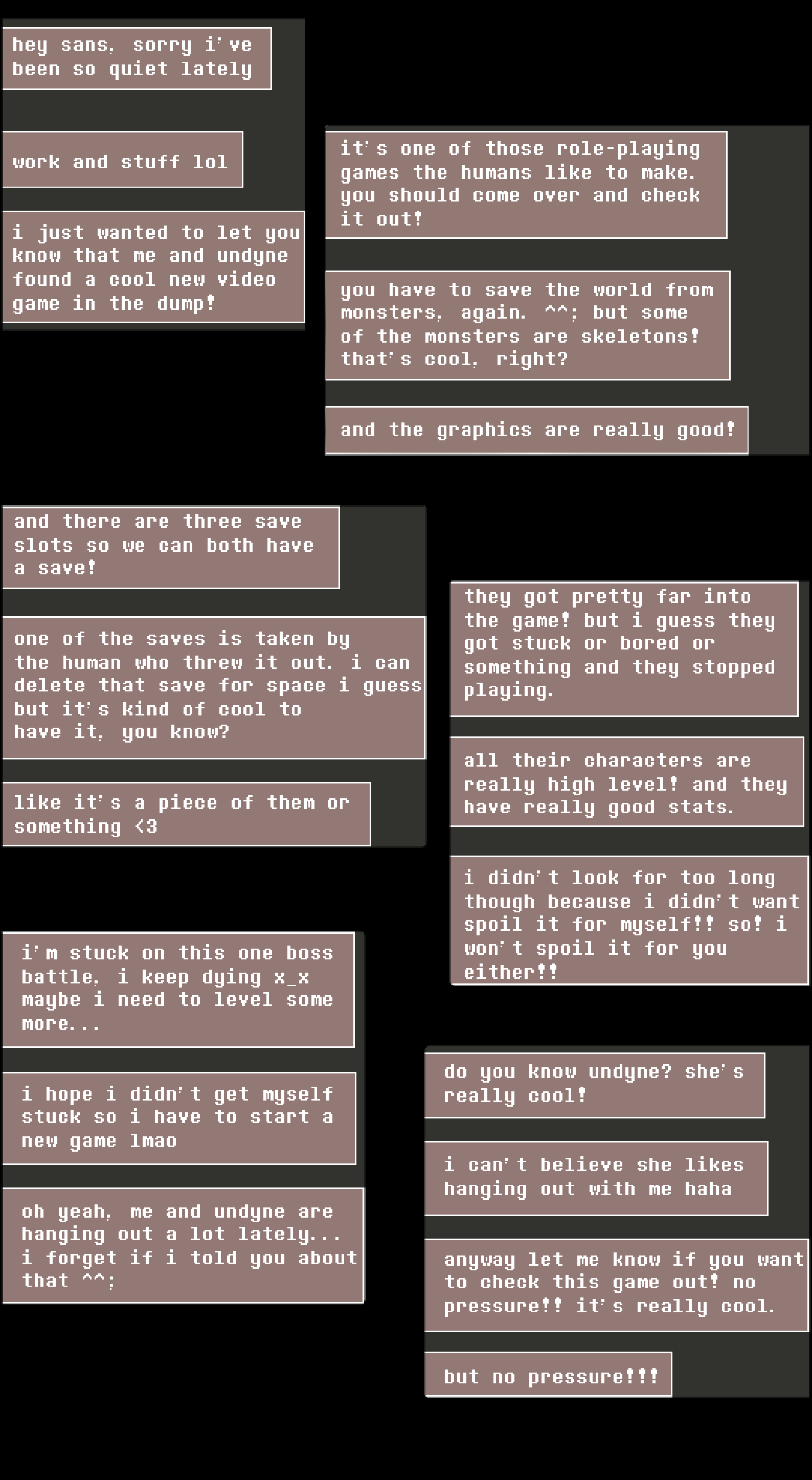
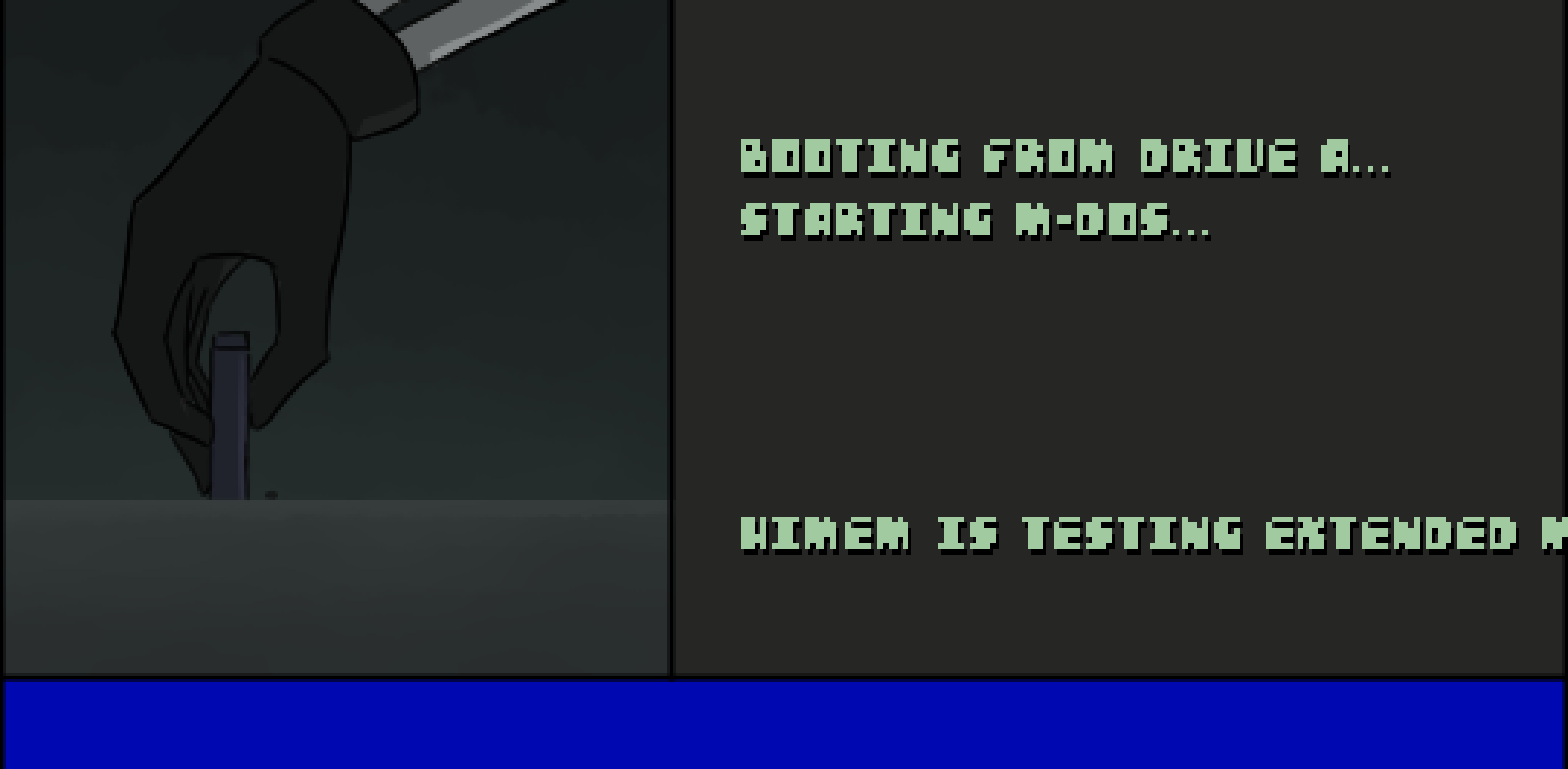


SANS!! DON'T SPOIL MY GOOD MOOD WITH YOUR AWFUL JOKES!

wouldn't...

dream of it, bro.

heh...



it's funny.

for some reason...

finding out there's
something or someone out
there that's controlling
everything we do...

using us to
do... SOMETHING.
i dunno what...

something about
that seems...

familiar.

i don't feel
surprised.

i don't know
what this feeling
is.

or if it's
even a feeling.

is any of this
really real?

is anything i've
ever done, or thought,
or felt...

was any of that
actually real?

or was it all...

planned?

controlled?

made by something
i can't even see,

or maybe even
understand?

does it even matter
when i can't even tell
the difference?

does anything matter?

what even is "real"?

are any of us
even people, or are
we just...

things...

thup
shf







papyrus-

DON'T TALK TO ME!

papyrus come on, let me explain-

YOU ALREADY HAD YOUR CHANCE!

would you just listen? it's not what you think-

THEN WHAT IS IT, SANS? TELL ME WHAT IT IS! IS IT NOTHING OR IS IT SOMETHING? WHAT DID THE BOSS COMPUTER TELL YOU?

look, it... it's not that you wouldn't understand, it's... can you just trust me on this?

i wouldn't keep a secret from you without a good reason.

SANS YOU KEEP SECRETS FROM ME ALL THE TIME!!

yeah okay, but not big secrets. just... trust me about this, okay?

i'm still trying to figure out what it means myself,

TRUST YOU ABOUT WHAT? YOU WON'T EVEN TELL ME WHY IT'S A SECRET!

i'm not even sure-

THEN TELL ME WHAT YOU DO KNOW, SO WE CAN FIGURE IT OUT TOGETHER!

SO I CAN HELP!

i can't, it's-

ugh, this is going in circles.

WHAT I KNOW IS THAT YOU SAID WE WOULD WORK THROUGH ALL OF OUR STUFF TOGETHER.

AND NOW YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT US AND YOU WON'T TELL ME.

just... come on, papyrus, you know me.

I THOUGHT I KNEW YOU, APPARENTLY.

i'm doing this for you.

can't you just trust me on this?

NOT IF YOU CAN'T TRUST ME!

JUST GO OFF WITH YOUR NEW BOSS COMPUTER FRIEND.

I'M GOING TO DO MY OWN SECRET RESEARCH WITHOUT YOU AND IT'S GOING TO BE WAY BETTER THAN YOURS!

papyrus! papyrus, come on!

I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU UNLESS YOU STRAIGHTEN UP AND START TELLING ME THE TRUTH!

THIS SKULL IS A STRICTLY TRUTH-ONLY ZONE, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY! THERE'LL BE NO MORE FALSITIES IN THESE EARS!

you don't even have ears-

ugh, you know what? fine.

fine! just go and sulk like a little babybones, whatever.

you probably won't even remember this tomorrow anyway.

im the worst brother in the world,

i cant believe i said that.

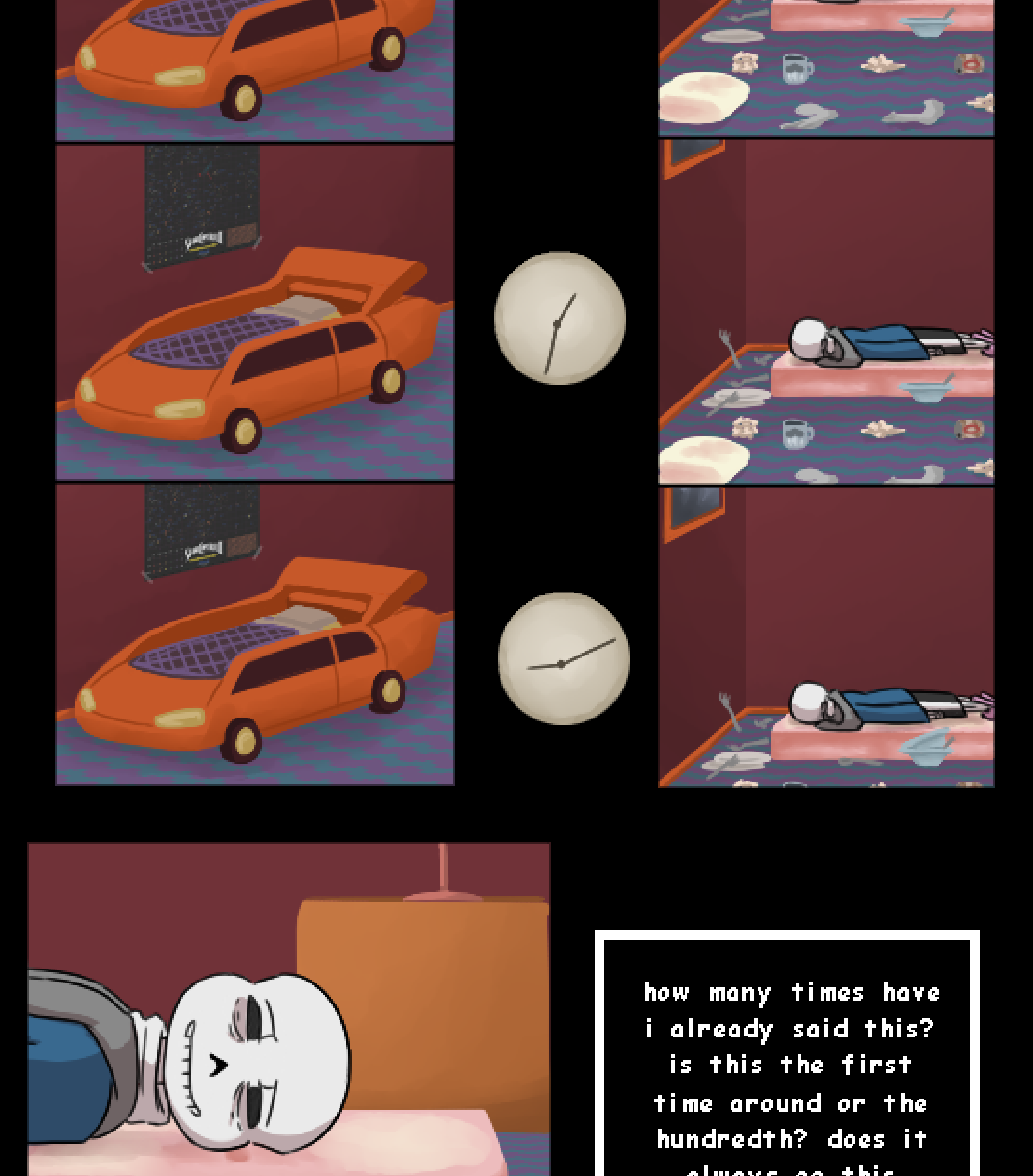
im never goin home again.

jus give me the worst burger you got.

things are really bad.



what else can i say?



how many times have i already said this?
is this the first
time around or the
hundredth? does it
always go this
way?

what's the point
of it?

what's the point
of anything?



these feelings might not be real,
but they sure hurt like they are.

how much control do
they have over us?
what we do, or
say, or think?

how much of us
is us, and not what
they tell us to be?
are they watching
us right now?



is this what they wanted?



well i hope they're having fun putting us through this.

not really.

i hope they go to hell.

that's not gonna fix this though.

i don't know how to fix this.

i don't know how to
do anything anymore.

i want to undo this,
but i can't.

i can't.

Not that I don't like hanging out with you and everything, but... have you slept at all the last few days?

I DON'T NEED SLEEP.

Are you still mad at Sans? Just make up with him already, this is getting ridiculous.

HE NEEDS TO TELL ME WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON! HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO HELP IF I DON'T KNOW?





mmp...
papyrus?

what're you
doing in here...?

I CAME IN TO
CHECK IF YOU WERE
IN A COMA AGAIN.

YOU'VE
BEEN ASLEEP
FOR 22 HOURS.

eh...

some of that
was just me lyin
there with my
eyes closed,
heh...

SANS, YOU CAN'T
KEEP GOING ON LIKE
THIS. JUST TELL ME WHAT
YOU FOUND. OR AT LEAST
TELL ME WHY YOU
CAN'T TELL ME.

you don't gotta
worry about me, i'm fine.
champion sleeper,
remember?

that's not even
my best record.

SANS, I'M NOT
STUPID, SO STOP
TREATING ME
LIKE I AM.

WHATEVER IT IS
YOU FOUND OUT,
IT'S BAD, ISN'T
IT?

IT'S SO BAD THAT
YOU'RE NOT TAKING
CARE OF YOURSELF
EVEN A LITTLE BIT.

AND ALL
YOU HAVE IS
A LITTLE BIT,
SANS.

i know, i know.
don't gotta remind
me all the time
about how weak
i am.

IT'S MY JOB
TO TAKE CARE
OF YOU. I NEED
TO KNOW WHAT
THIS IS SO I
CAN FIGURE
OUT WHAT
TO DO.

heh, there's
really not much
you CAN do...

WHY WON'T
YOU TELL ME?

YOU DON'T THINK
I'LL UNDERSTAND?

...no, i
think you WILL
understand...
that's what
worries me.

it's one of those
things you're better
off not knowing.

AND YOU
ARE?

... YOU KEEP
SECRETS NO ONE
ASKED FOR THAT
ONLY HURT YOU.

BECAUSE
SOMEWHERE YOU
DON'T BELIEVE
YOU DESERVE TO
BE HAPPY.

...i just want
you to be happy.

DO I LOOK
HAPPY RIGHT
NOW?

[sigh]

...okay...

okay, you
wanna know the
real deal?

...im scared.

im scared to tell
you cause...

you always see the best
in things, you never give up, you
always find some kinda light and
im scared that this...

that you won't find
any light in this. that
there isn't any.

and if you can't
see light...

then i don't know what
im gonna do with myself.

i don't
know if i could
handle it.

YOU'RE NOT
REALLY HANDLING
IT NOW.

i know...
i know.

and i don't wanna
drag you into it.

you don't deserve
this. you deserve
to be happy.

I'M NOT GOING
TO BE HAPPY AS
LONG AS YOU'RE
LIKE THIS.

you won't be
happy once you
know.

I'LL BE
THE JUDGE
OF THAT.

SANS,
I KNOW YOU'RE
SCARED.

BUT YOU
DON'T HAVE
TO BE!

I'M THE
GREAT PAPYRUS.
REMEMBER?

AND THERE'S
NOTHING I CAN'T
HANDLE.



okay, you know when we play checkers together? there's a board, right? and there's all the pieces on the board. and we move em around according to the rules when its our turn, right? cause we're the players.

but what would it be like if you were a checker piece?

your whole world would be the board, right? you move around, but just cause some thing bigger than you is moving you around.

what if you couldn't see who was moving you around? what if you didn't even know something else was moving you around?

...

and if one of us cheated-

YOU MEAN IF YOU CHEATED.

fine, if i cheated, and we had to start over...

we'd put all the pieces back where they started. like the game we were just playing didn't happen.

you followin me so far?

UH HUH.

AND YOU DIDN'T TELL ME THAT EITHER??

i'm telling you now, okay? but i found a program on it, it said something about rendering the current timeline before it broke.

YOU BROKE IT??

cmom bro, focus. so i went to the big computer, and i got it to render the timeline instead... and it had where everyone was.

where we were,

and i think, where we're going, too...

and i got to thinking...

what if we're like checker pieces? and the underground is like the board? and someone else is moving us around...

remember when we got all those dream memories all at once? about us doing stuff at home?

YEAH...

what if those were... other games they played with us?

and each time they reset us back to where we were when they were done?

...the computer in the workroom needed a password...

it was 1s2p.

and, you know how we're always seeing ourselves doing stuff?

what if...

do you see what i mean? about not wanting to tell you this?

i can't stop thinking about... who i am.

why i'm doing anything.

why any of it matters.

if any of it is real.

if any of it is worth doing if we're just going to start back at the beginning again...

why do anything?

why think or feel anything?

are we even thinking...?

or is something just, moving us around wherever they need us to go...?

is everything we're doing already all planned out?

am i really me, or did something out there make me do "me" things...?

i can't stop thinking about it...

HMM.







ggh...
i'm getting
nowhere...

why does it
let me see it but
not change any
of it!

why isn't there
any documentation
for this stupid
thing!



papyrus...?

hey,
papyrus?

papyrus,
are you okay?



MM...

MM?

OH.

YES.

OF
COURSE.

papyrus...

I DON'T
BELIEVE IT.

what?

I DON'T
BELIEVE THE
COMPUTER.



MAYBE IT'S LYING,
OR MAYBE IT'S CONFUSED,
BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT.
I DON'T BELIEVE THINGS
ARE GOING TO HAPPEN
THAT WAY. WE'RE NOT
GOING TO STOP.

ALL THIS...

ALL THIS
ISN'T GOING
TO STOP. IT
CAN'T. IT JUST
CAN'T.

THIS...

i...



i mean, i
don't know
how to...

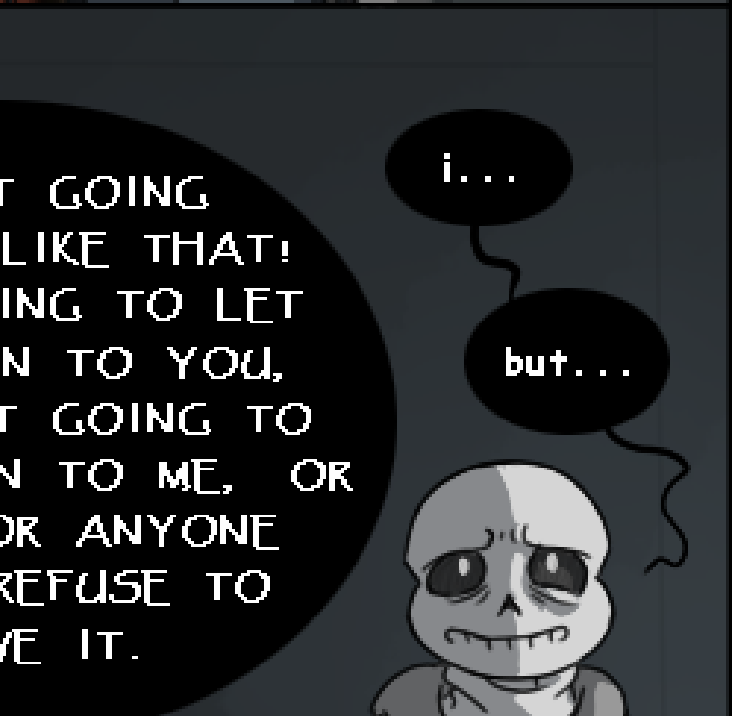
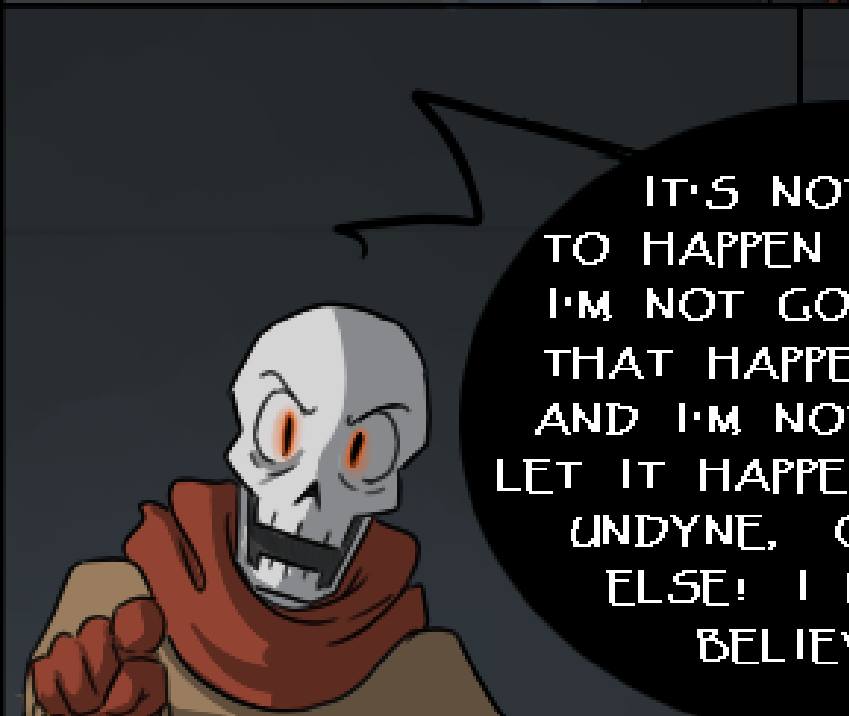
IT JUST CAN'T
HAPPEN LIKE THAT.
IT JUST CAN'T. I
WON'T LET IT.

but-

how,
there
isn't any
thing we-



i don't know
if there's even a
way to verify the
data, but...



IT'S NOT GOING
TO HAPPEN LIKE THAT!
I'M NOT GOING TO LET
THAT HAPPEN TO YOU,
AND I'M NOT GOING TO
LET IT HAPPEN TO ME, OR
UNDYNE, OR ANYONE
ELSE! I REFUSE TO
BELIEVE IT.

i...

but...



I AM
THE GREAT
PAPYRUS!

I AM
MY OWN
SKELETON!

I AM A REAL
MONSTER WITH REAL
FEELINGS WHO MAKES
MY OWN DECISIONS!

AND NOBODY
CAN TAKE THAT
FROM ME, NOT EVEN
GIGANTIC BOSS
COMPUTERS WITH
NO RESPECT
FOR PRIVACY!

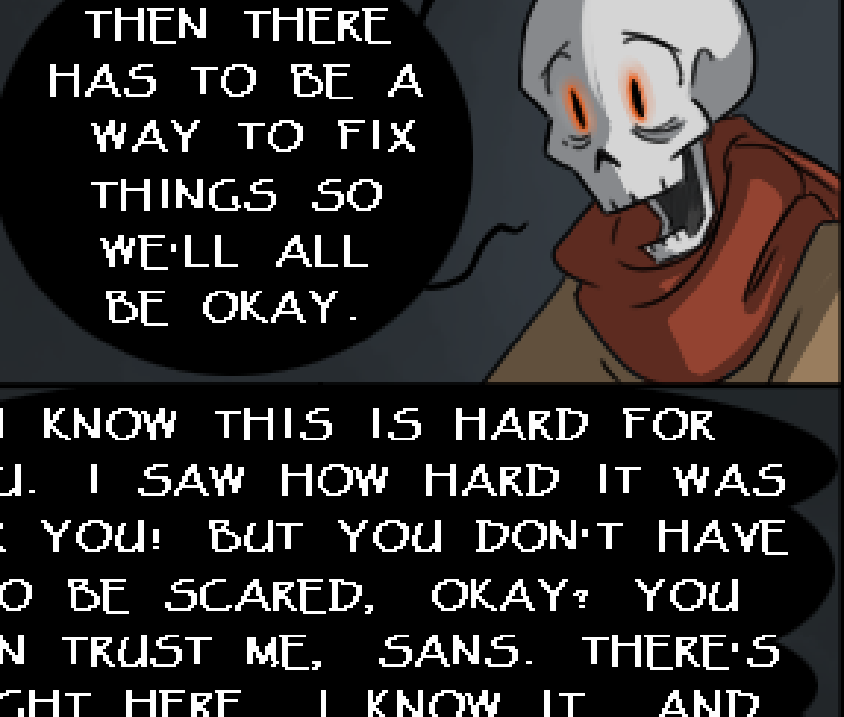
papyrus-



SANS, DON'T
WORRY. I'LL FIGURE
OUT HOW TO
FIX THIS!

THE COMPUTER
IS OBVIOUSLY
WRONG, AND
EVEN IF IT
ISN'T,

THEN THERE
HAS TO BE A
WAY TO FIX
THINGS SO
WE'LL ALL
BE OKAY.



papyrus...

I KNOW THIS IS HARD FOR
YOU. I SAW HOW HARD IT WAS
FOR YOU! BUT YOU DON'T HAVE
TO BE SCARED, OKAY? YOU
CAN TRUST ME, SANS. THERE'S
LIGHT HERE, I KNOW IT, AND
I'M GOING TO FIND IT.



EVEN IF
YOU'RE SCARED,
I'M NOT SCARED.
I'M NEVER
SCARED.

papyrus,
you don't-

THE GREAT
PAPYRUS! AND
I'VE GOT THIS
ALL UNDER
CONTROL!



JUST BELIEVE IN ME,
AND I'LL TAKE CARE OF
EVERYTHING. NOW, WE'RE
SUPPOSED TO GO TALK
TO MY FLOWER
FRIEND!

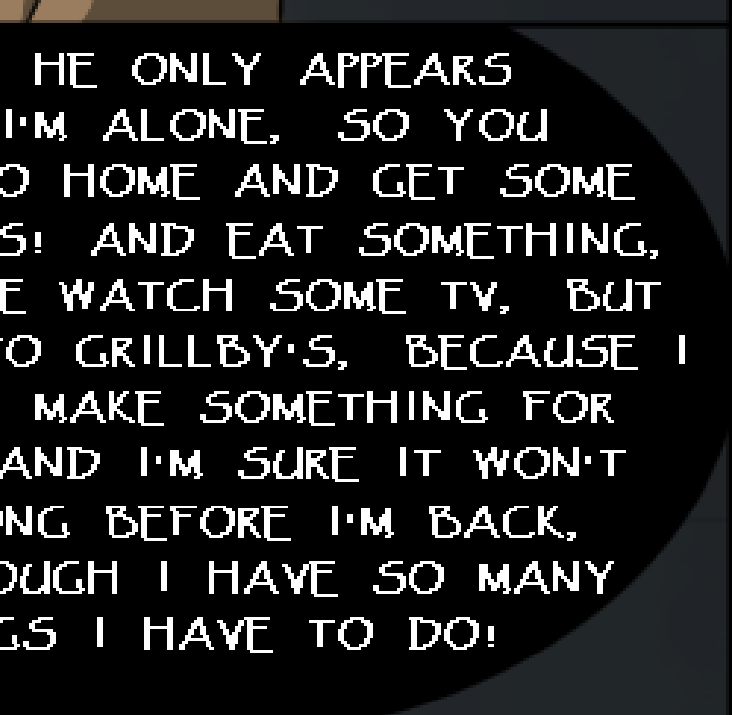
I'M SURE HE CAN
EXPLAIN WHY THIS
COMPUTER IS ALL
MIXED UP ABOUT
EVERYTHING!

papyrus-



BUT, HE ONLY APPEARS
WHEN I'M ALONE, SO YOU
BETTER GO HOME AND GET SOME
REST, SANS! AND EAT SOMETHING,
AND MAYBE WATCH SOME TV, BUT
DON'T GO TO GRILLBY'S, BECAUSE I
WANT TO MAKE SOMETHING FOR
DINNER, AND I'M SURE IT WON'T
TAKE LONG BEFORE I'M BACK,
EVEN THOUGH I HAVE SO MANY
THINGS I HAVE TO DO!

papyrus-!

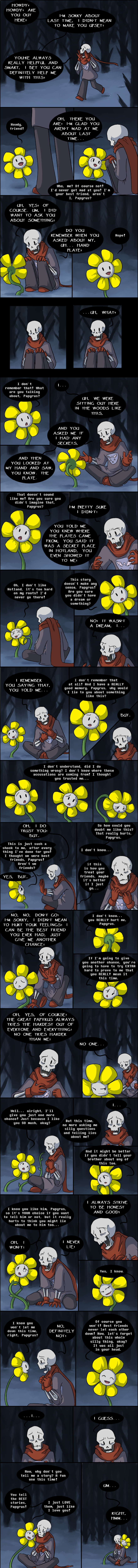


papyrus!



...papyrus...







SANS: ARE YOU HOME?

yeah, 'm here.

did you talk to that flower guy?

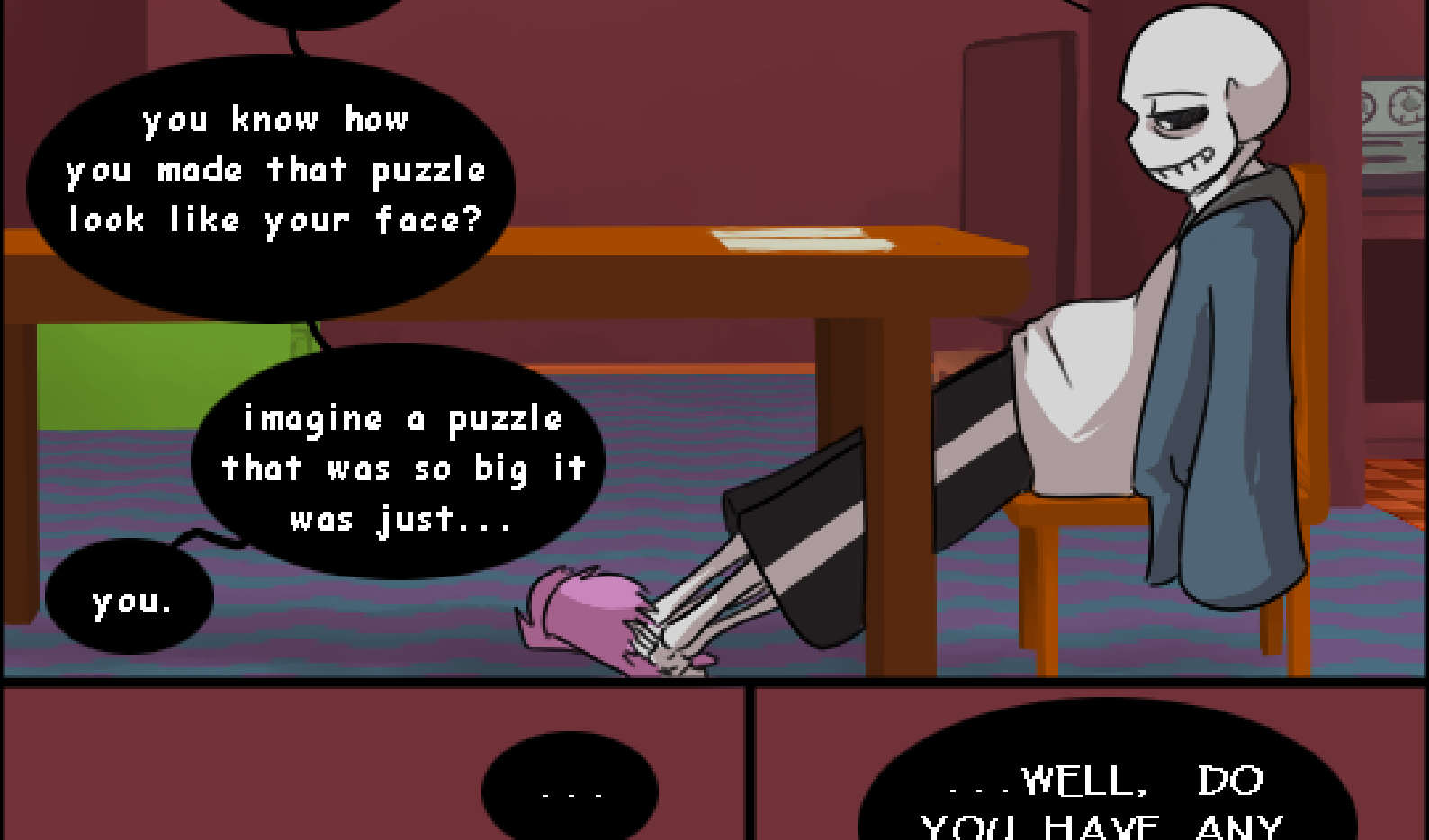


UH, YEAH, BUT...

UH, WHY DON'T YOU GO FIRST? DID YOU FIGURE ANYTHING ELSE OUT?

nothin we didn't already know,

which is we got a lot of pieces that don't add up to a full puzzle.



like...

you know how you made that puzzle look like your face?

imagine a puzzle that was so big it was just...

you.



...WELL, DO YOU HAVE ANY GUESSES?



jeez, where to start...

one i had is that maybe we made the machines.

us?

yeah, the files are named after us, the password is our numbers, it's in our house, only we could get inside...

maybe we tried to time travel or something like that and we ended up erasing our memories,

so that's why we don't remember anything.

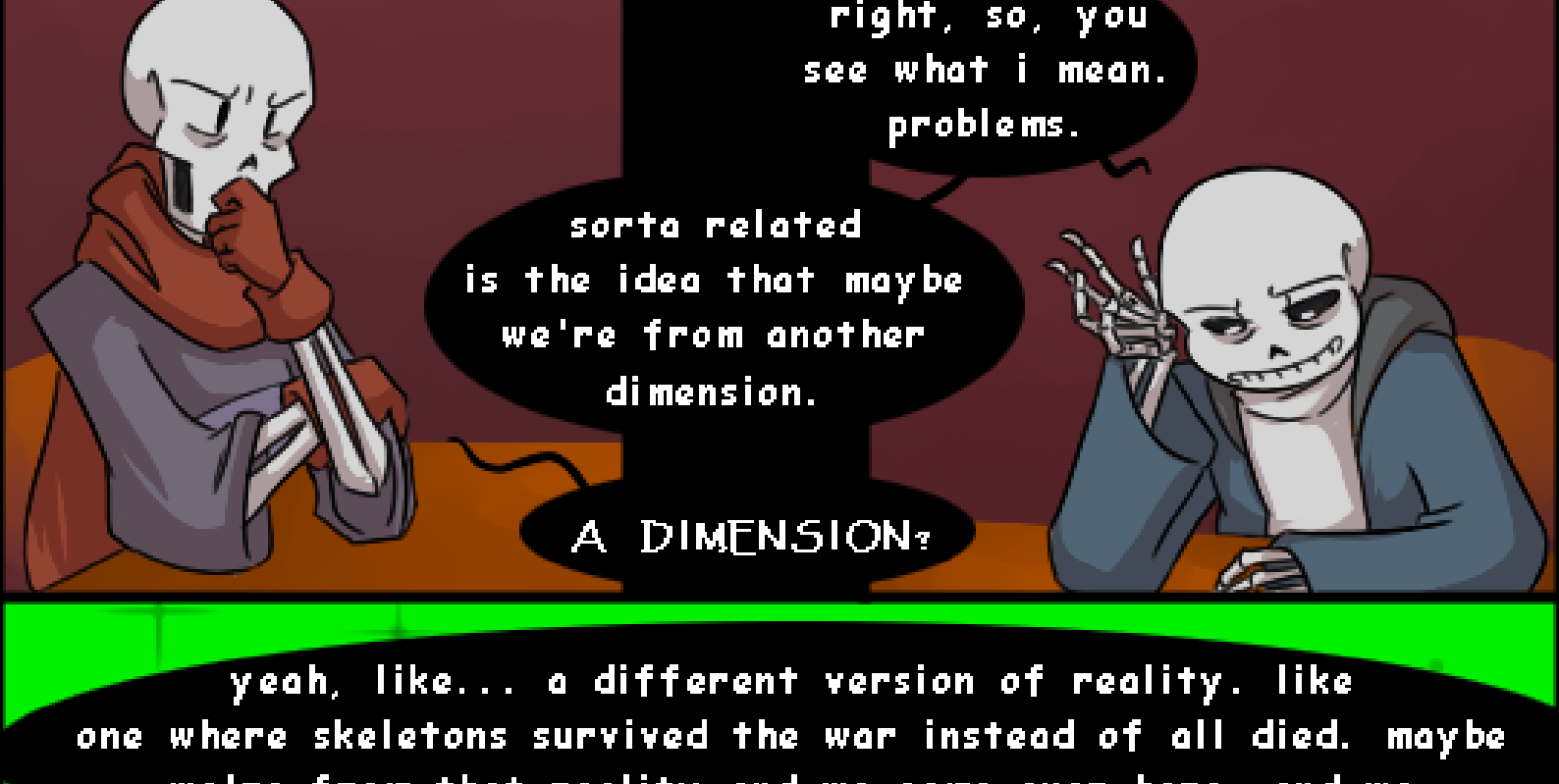
HUH, THAT DOES SEEM TO ADD UP...



but then, why were we in the core when asgore found us, why is that when all the lines start,

why were we wearing those gown things, why can you fly and why can i do shortcuts,

why did we put these plates in our hands, why doesn't anyone else remember us...



HMM, YES. THIS IS VEXING.

AND WHY ARE WE SKELETONS WHEN THEY ALL DIED A LONG LONG TIME AGO? IF WE TIME TRAVELED FROM BACK THEN, THEN HOW DID WE MAKE THIS HOUSE FOR OURSELVES NOW...?

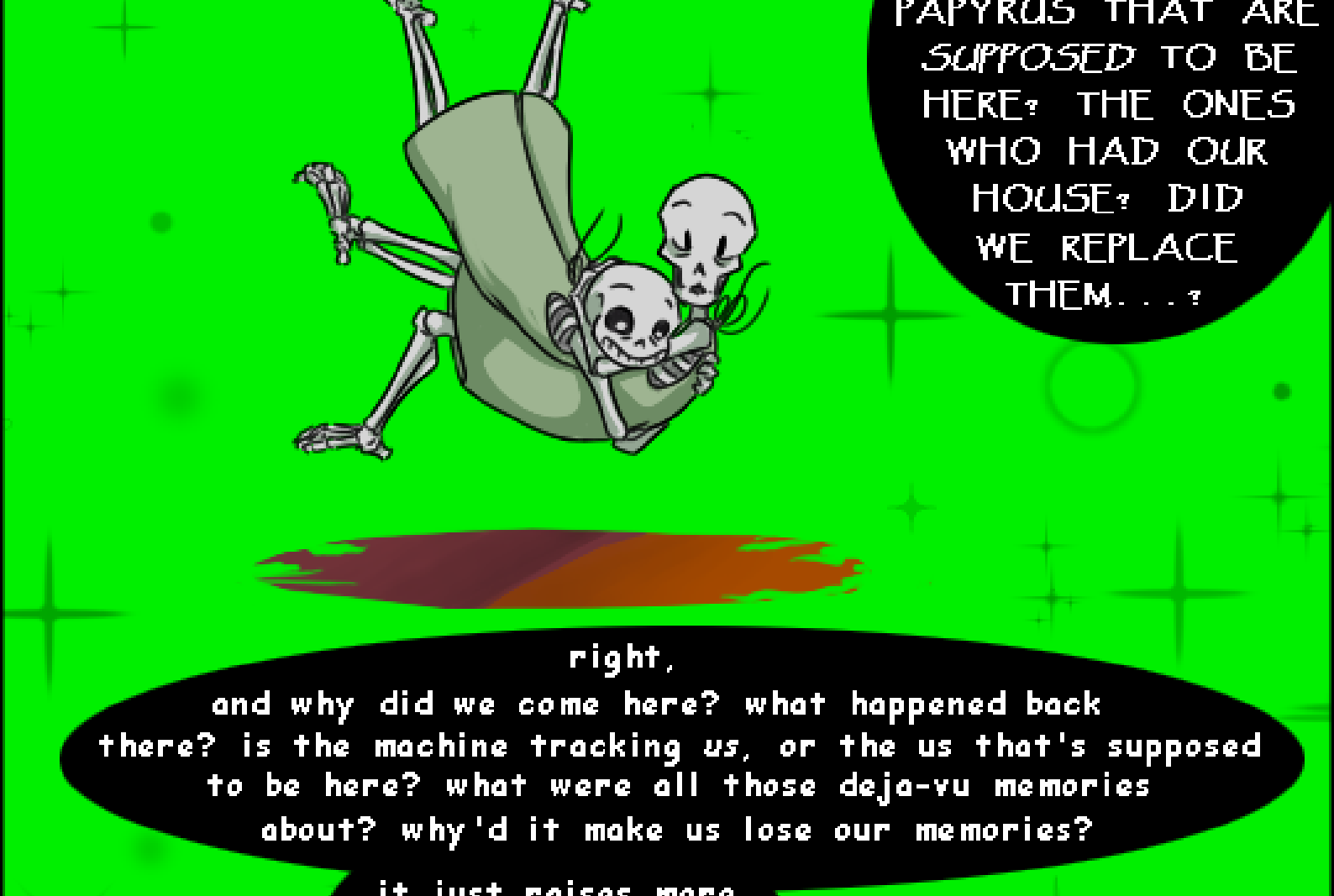
right, so, you see what i mean. problems.

sorta related is the idea that maybe we're from another dimension.

A DIMENSION?



yeah, like... a different version of reality. like one where skeletons survived the war instead of all died. maybe we're from that reality and we came over here, and we lost our memories that way.



BUT THEN, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SANS AND PAPYRUS THAT ARE SUPPOSED TO BE HERE? THE ONES WHO HAD OUR HOUSE? DID WE REPLACE THEM...?

right, and why did we come here? what happened back there? is the machine tracking us, or the us that's supposed to be here? what were all those deja-vu memories about? why'd it make us lose our memories?

it just raises more questions... there's always questions...



AND THAT DOESN'T REALLY SOLVE ANY OF OUR PROBLEMS, EITHER.

that too.

another thing i was thinking about was if this is all a game... why do we have amnesia, why are we so different?

and i thought, you know... we do have numbers...



YEAH?

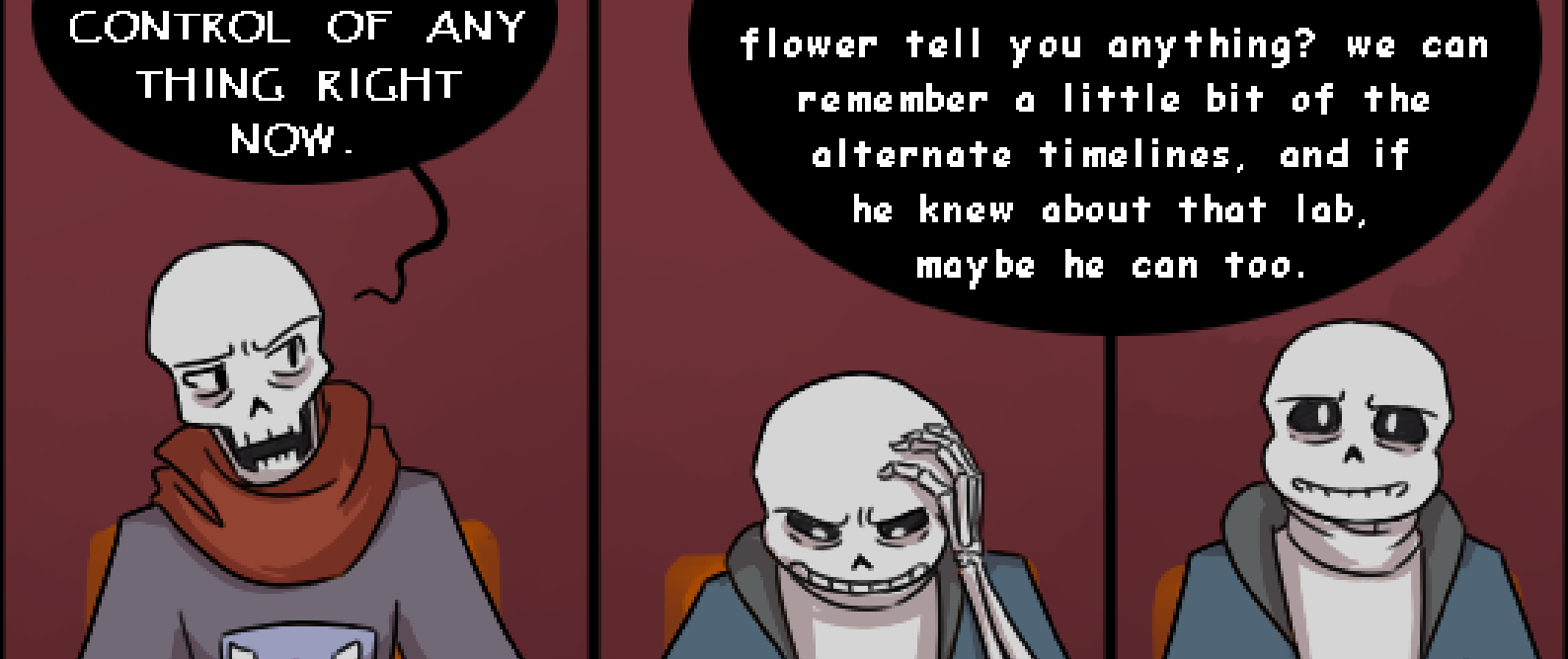
player one, and player two.



what if the reason no one remembers us, that we don't remember anything...

is because there's nothing to remember?

what if we just didn't exist until someone or something started playing? what if we're so special because we're the players?



I DON'T FEEL LIKE I'M IN CONTROL OF ANY THING RIGHT NOW.

or, we're the characters the player is controlling. i don't know... i don't know. did that flower tell you anything? we can remember a little bit of the alternate timelines, and if he knew about that lab, maybe he can too.



that look on your face isn't fillin me with confidence here.





UM, CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

Sure, what's up?

UH, I HAVE A FRIEND, THAT'S NOT ME, AND THIS FRIEND, HE HAS A BROTHER WHICH IS NOT MY BROTHER, BUT A DIFFERENT BROTHER,

AND THIS FRIEND IS HAVING A HARD TIME RIGHT NOW, AND IT'S REALLY HARD FOR HIM BECAUSE HIS BROTHER, THAT'S NOT MY BROTHER, REALLY NEEDS HIM RIGHT NOW BECAUSE HE IS ALSO HAVING A BAD TIME,

AND IT'S REALLY HARD FOR MY FRIEND, WHO IS NOT ME! TO BE STRONG FOR HIM, AND SINCE YOU'RE THE STRONGEST PERSON I KNOW, I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU'D HAVE SOME ADVICE FOR HIM, MY FRIEND, WHO IS NOT ME AT ALL AND I'VE NEVER HEARD OF BEFORE IN MY LIFE.

...Uh huh. Okay, so, why are you having a hard time right now?

Is someone giving you trouble?? Because if they are I SWEAR TO GOD, PAPYRUS, I'M GOING TO TEAR THEM-

NO NO NO! NO ONE IS BEING MEAN TO ME. OR, UH, MY FRIEND. IT'S NOT THAT.

Then what is it? What's going on?

UH, I CAN'T, WELL, I MEAN, MY FRIEND CAN'T, UH, THEY CAN'T TELL YOU.

FOR, VERY GOOD REASONS THAT ARE, MUCH TOO COMPLICATED TO GET INTO. FOR REASONS.

REALLY GOOD REASONS, PLEASE DON'T ASK ME ABOUT THE REASONS!!

Okay, but it's kinda hard for me to give you advice if I don't know what's going on...

IT'S ABOUT BEING STRONG.

IT'S NOT ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON!

YOU'RE ALWAYS REALLY STRONG, EVERYONE IS ALWAYS DEPENDING ON YOU.

I MEAN, MY FRIEND'S BROTHER IS. AND I KNOW. HE KNOWS THAT HE HAS TO SUPPORT HIM, BUT IT'S JUST... IT'S JUST HARD WHEN YOU I. HE-, WAIT...

MY BROTHER IS REALLY, REALLY DEPENDING ON ME... UH!

I know you're talking about yourself, Papyrus, just drop it, huh? You're just confusing yourself.

I'M NOT!

UH, I MEAN, HE'S NOT... WAIT.

Papyrus, come ON.

IT'S JUST HARD WHEN YOU'RE NOT SURE WHAT TO DO FOR YOURSELF.

I. HE WANTS TO BE STRONG, BUT SOMETIMES HE'S SCARED, AND HE CAN'T BE SCARED BUT HE IS.

HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE BUT HE IS.

Everyone gets scared sometimes, Papyrus, it's okay.

You know, I know your brother is really fragile and lazy, but you ever think that *maybe* he doesn't need you doing all this for him?

Maybe he's stronger than you think he is.

what's the point of even being...

alive?

NO, HE ONE HUNDRED PERCENT NEEDS ME TO DO THIS, I HAVE TO FIX THIS FOR HIM,

IF I DON'T DO THIS. IF I DON'T. IF HE- IF HE-

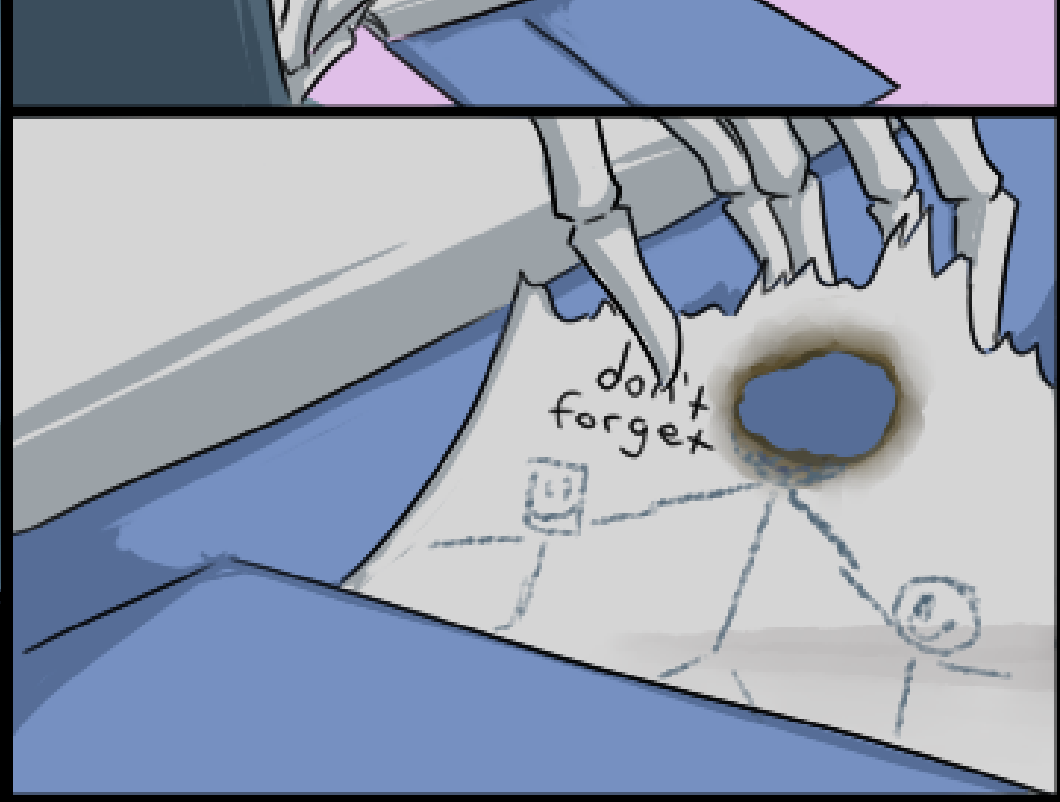
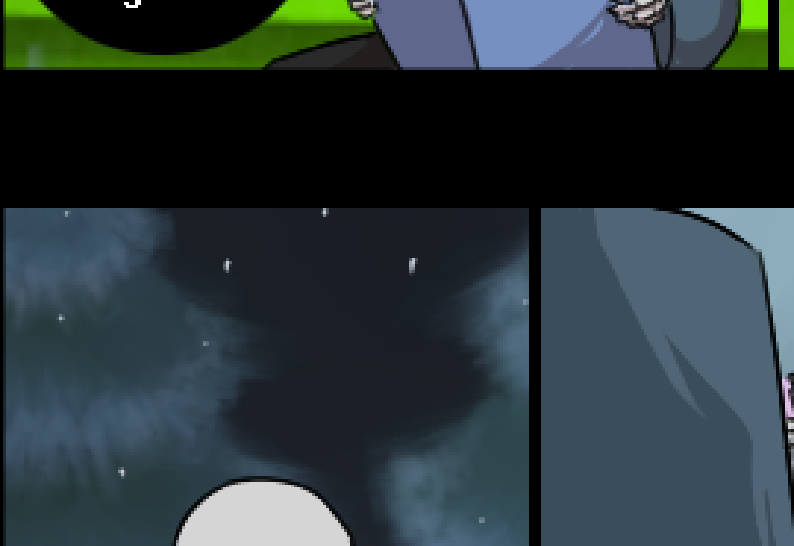
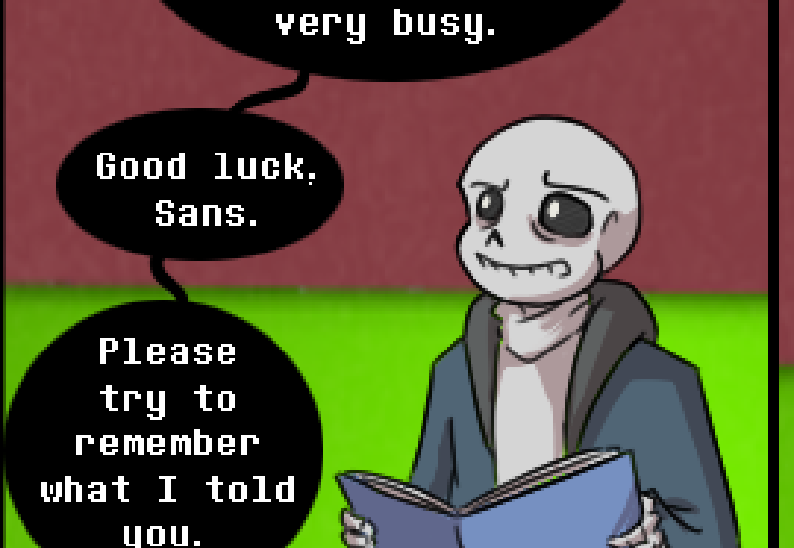
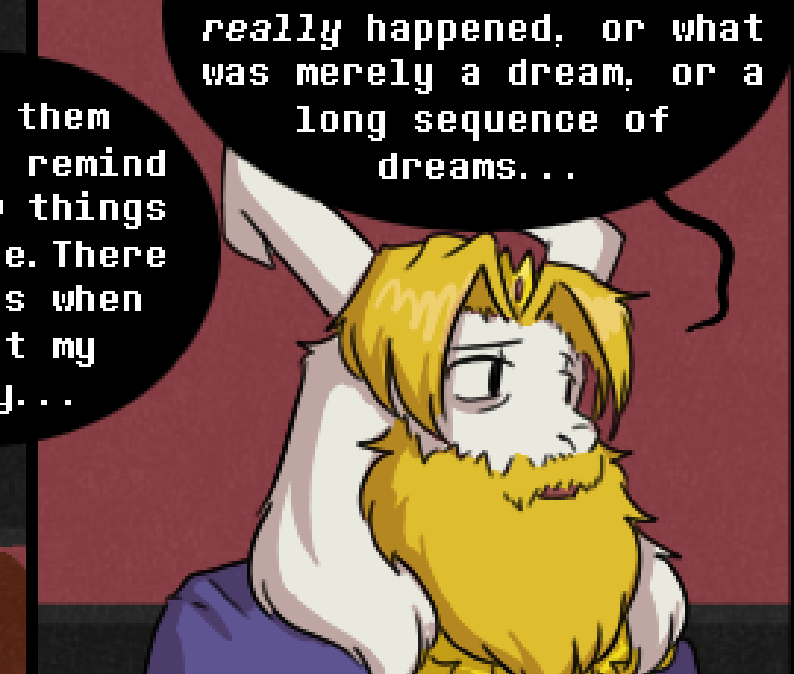
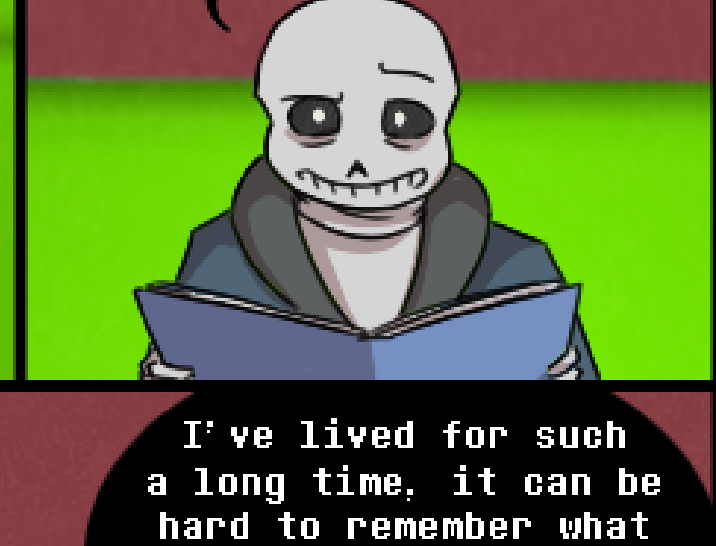
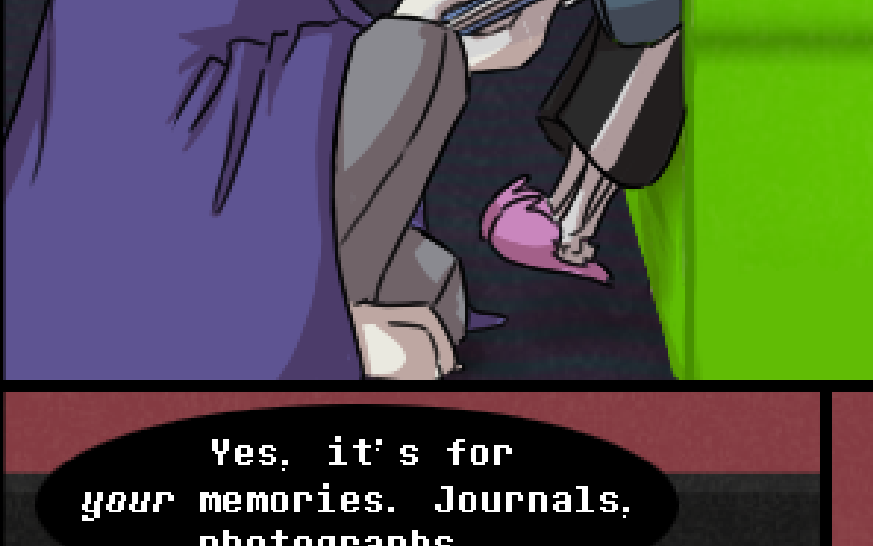
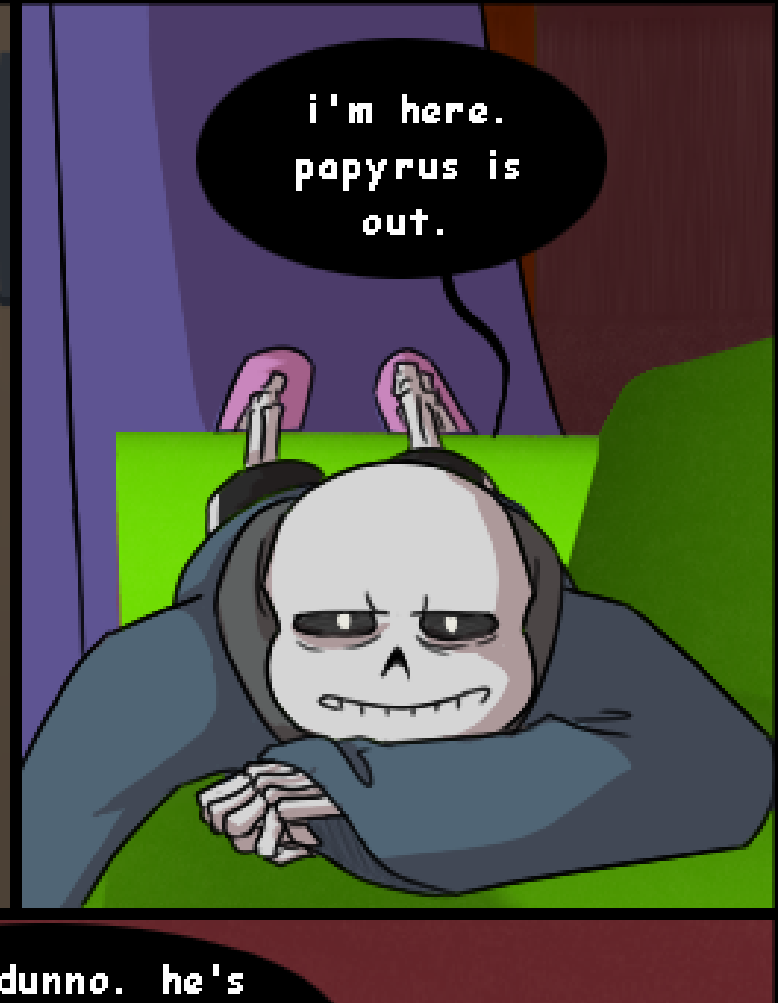
Woah woah woah, okay, okay, breathe, breathe, okay?

What's going ON, Papyrus? It sounds really bad.

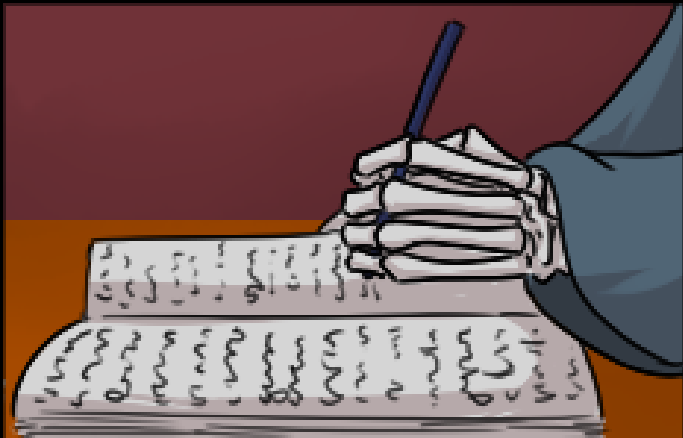
IT IS BAD. BUT! UH! I CAN'T TELL YOU... I CAN'T TELL YOU, I REALLY CAN'T.

OH, I DON'T LIKE SAYING THAT AT ALL. BUT, I REALLY CAN'T... IT'S JUST, BAD. FOR BOTH OF US. THEM. FOR BOTH OF THEM.









things are getting better.

as much as they
can, considering.

we can't really fix
what the computer
said. i don't think
we can really
change anything.

it's really weird to know
when you're going to die.

but... i don't know, papyrus
really seems to believe that
it's wrong, or it can be
changed. not for my sake,
but for real now.

and i'm really
glad he does. i
was scared he
couldn't do it.

but that's
my brother.

it really feels like
he can do anything.



maybe it is wrong.
i want to believe
it is.

it's really hard
to hope lately.

it's even hard for papyrus,
and it's one of the things
he's best at.

it's not as easy
as it looks.

it takes a lot
of work. but
he's trying.

he always
does.



we've kinda gone
back to pretending
things are okay.
like we don't know
and things are normal.
and in a way it helps.

we can't change it...
so i guess i was right back
then. you can't really do
anything but accept it. and
pretending makes it easier
to forget.

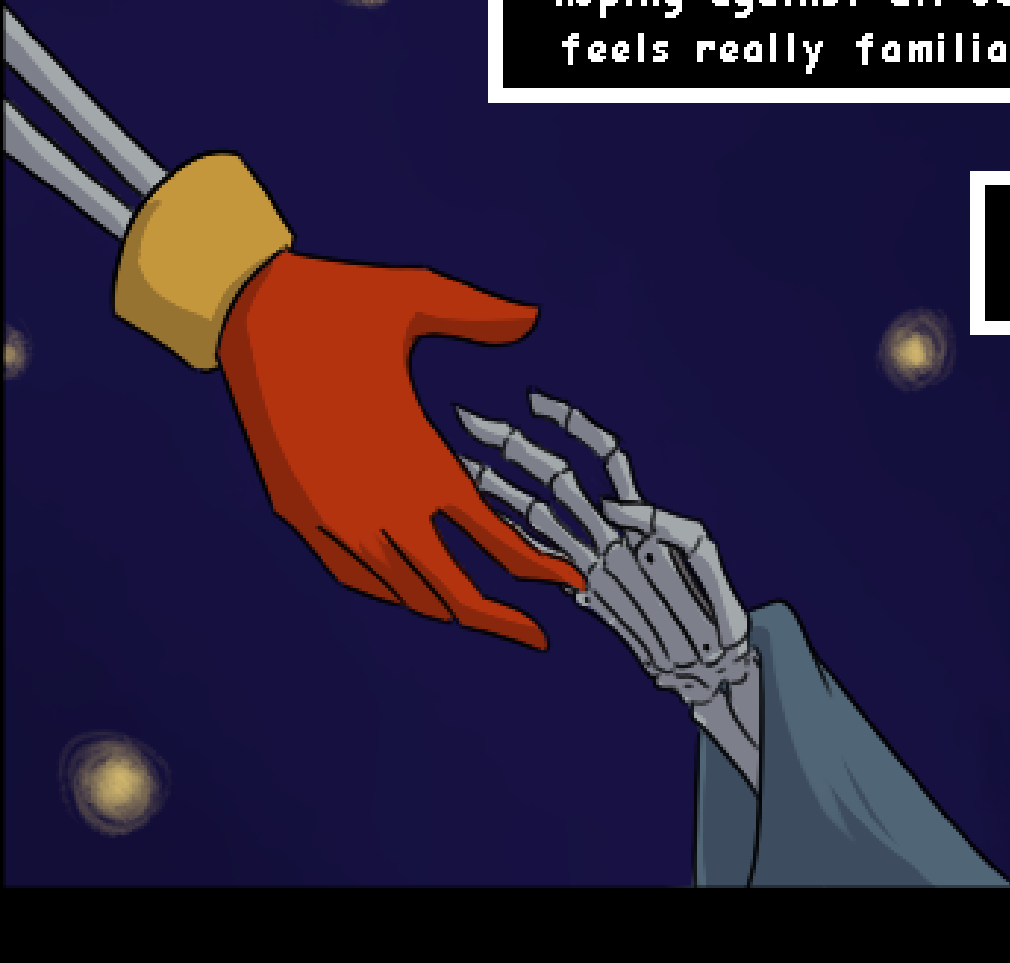
i don't really know
what else to do.



something about papyrus
hoping against all odds
feels really familiar.

and i think it feels
familiar to him too.

like it's right,
or something
like that.



i really wish we'd found
out who we really are
instead of what we're
going to be (dead).

although, maybe who we
really are would be just
as bad. and i guess we
all gotta die eventually.

i'm trying not to
think about it.



i really hope the
render is wrong.

i really, really want
it to be wrong.

but for now,

there's nothing we can
do but keep trying to
live however we can.





UNDYNE!
UNDYNE!!

Hey, you
sure seem excited
about something.

OH, I HEARD
THE BEST NEWS
TODAY!



GREATEST
DOG IS OUT OF
COMMISSION!

...Greatest
Dog fell down, Papyrus,
that's not really
good news.



NO, THAT'S
NOT WHAT I MEANT.
THAT'S REALLY
AWFUL, BUT,



WHAT THAT MEANS
IS THAT THERE'S AN
OPENING IN THE ROYAL
GUARD, RIGHT?

AND THAT
MEANS...



THAT THERE'S FINALLY
ROOM FOR THE BEST ROYAL
GUARD IN THE HISTORY OF THE
UNDERGROUND TO TAKE HIS
RIGHTFUL PLACE!



Uh-

BECAUSE YOU SAID
THAT THE ONLY REASON I
COULDN'T JOIN WAS BECAUSE
IT WAS FULL, RIGHT?
BUT IT'S NOT FULL
ANYMORE!

Uuuuuuuuhhh-



SO WHAT ARE
MY ROYAL GUARD
DUTIES NOW? OH, I'M
SO EXCITED!!! DO I GO
GREET MY NEW ADORING
FANS? DO I GO AND
SIGN AUTOGRAPHS?



Uuuuuuh, well,
uuuuh, Greatest
Dog, uh...

oh, uh,
actually, I just
remembered!



Everyone has
to, uh...

complete a test to
become a Royal Guard! Because
we have to make sure everyone
has what it takes to be the
best of the best!



And that
test is, uh...

being a royal
sentry! It's a
really important
position.



You have to keep a
lookout for humans! And
when you see one you report
RIGHT back to me, and
definitely don't interact
with them in any way and
ESPECIALLY don't fight
them! Got it?



WOWIE!! IT'S
EVEN BETTER THAN
I IMAGINED! I CAN'T
WAIT TO TELL SANS
WE GOT THE
JOB!



Uh... only you
got it.

HAHA DON'T
BE SILLY! ME
AND SANS DO
EVERYTHING
TOGETHER!



AND HE DEFINITELY
NEEDS THE STRUCTURE
IN HIS LIFE! HE'S,
SO LAZY YOU
KNOW!

YES! LAZY!
THAT'S ALL
THERE IS
TO IT.

But, there's
only really
space for-

OH, THIS
WILL BE SO
GOOD FOR
SANS! HAVING
SUCH AN
IMPORTANT JOB
WILL REALLY
FIX ALL HIS
PROBLEMS
RIGHT
AWAY!



HE'LL GET TO APPLY
HIMSELF, AND SHOW EVERY
ONE WHAT HE CAN DO, AND
HE NEEDS THIS REALLY
REALLY BADLY AND IT'S SO
SO IMPORTANT THAT HE
HAS THIS JOB! I'M SO
GLAD HE GOT IT!
THANKS UNDYNE!



WE WON'T LET
YOU DOWN!

Papyrus!

...Hoo boy.



SANS! I HAVE A SURPRISE FOR YOU!

muh.



WAKE UP, SANS! THIS IS IMPORTANT! I GOT YOU A PET!



you WHAT-

I THINK IT'S TIME YOU TOOK SOME REAL RESPONSIBILITY AROUND HERE! AND A PET WILL BE JUST THE THING! AND IT MIGHT CHEER YOU UP A LITTLE! IT'S VERY CUTE, YOU KNOW.



papyrus, you can't just-

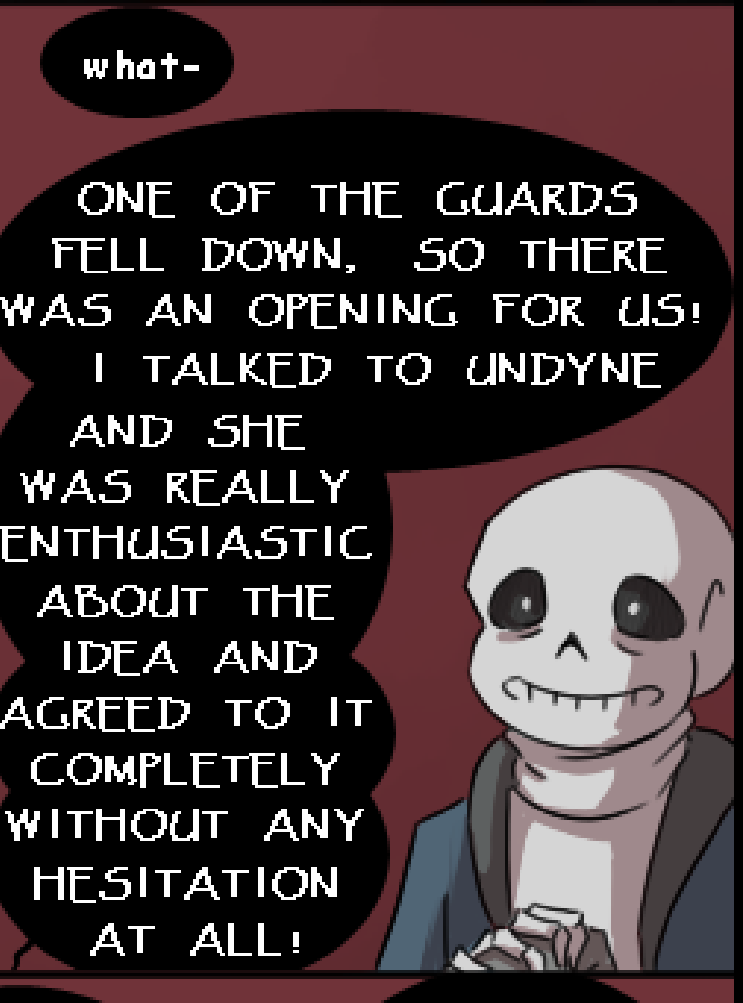
TADAH!

I LOOKED UP PETS IN THE LIBRARY AND THEY SAID THIS ONE WAS THE EASIEST TO TAKE CARE OF! I THOUGHT WE SHOULD START WITH SOMETHING SMALL, JUST TO SEE HOW YOU HANDLE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF PET OWNERSHIP.



oh... oh, heh. right. it's pretty cute. thanks bro. i'll take good care of it.

YOU'RE WELCOME! ALSO, YOU'RE IN THE ROYAL GUARD NOW!



what-

ONE OF THE GUARDS FELL DOWN, SO THERE WAS AN OPENING FOR US! I TALKED TO UNDYNE AND SHE WAS REALLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE IDEA AND AGREED TO IT COMPLETELY WITHOUT ANY HESITATION AT ALL!



papyrus- uh, i don't know if i've got the energy for somethin like that, heh. and i'm not, you know... real guard material i think, i'm a bit... round. soft. skeleton-y.



I AM A SKELETON, SANS, SO OF COURSE I KNOW THAT!

BUT DON'T WORRY, IT'LL WHIP YOU INTO SHAPE IN NO TIME!

AND UNDYNE SAID WE WEREN'T GOING TO BE FIGHTING ANYWAY!



huh, really?

YES, SHE SAID WE'D BE SENTRIES!

WHICH, TECHNICALLY, ISN'T QUITE A ROYAL GUARD POSITION, BUT IF WE DO A GOOD ENOUGH JOB I'M SURE WE'LL GET PROMOTED IN NO TIME! WE'RE GOING TO KEEP WATCH FOR HUMANS SO WE CAN REPORT THEM TO HER! AND SHE WAS VERY CLEAR TO NOT FIGHT THEM UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.



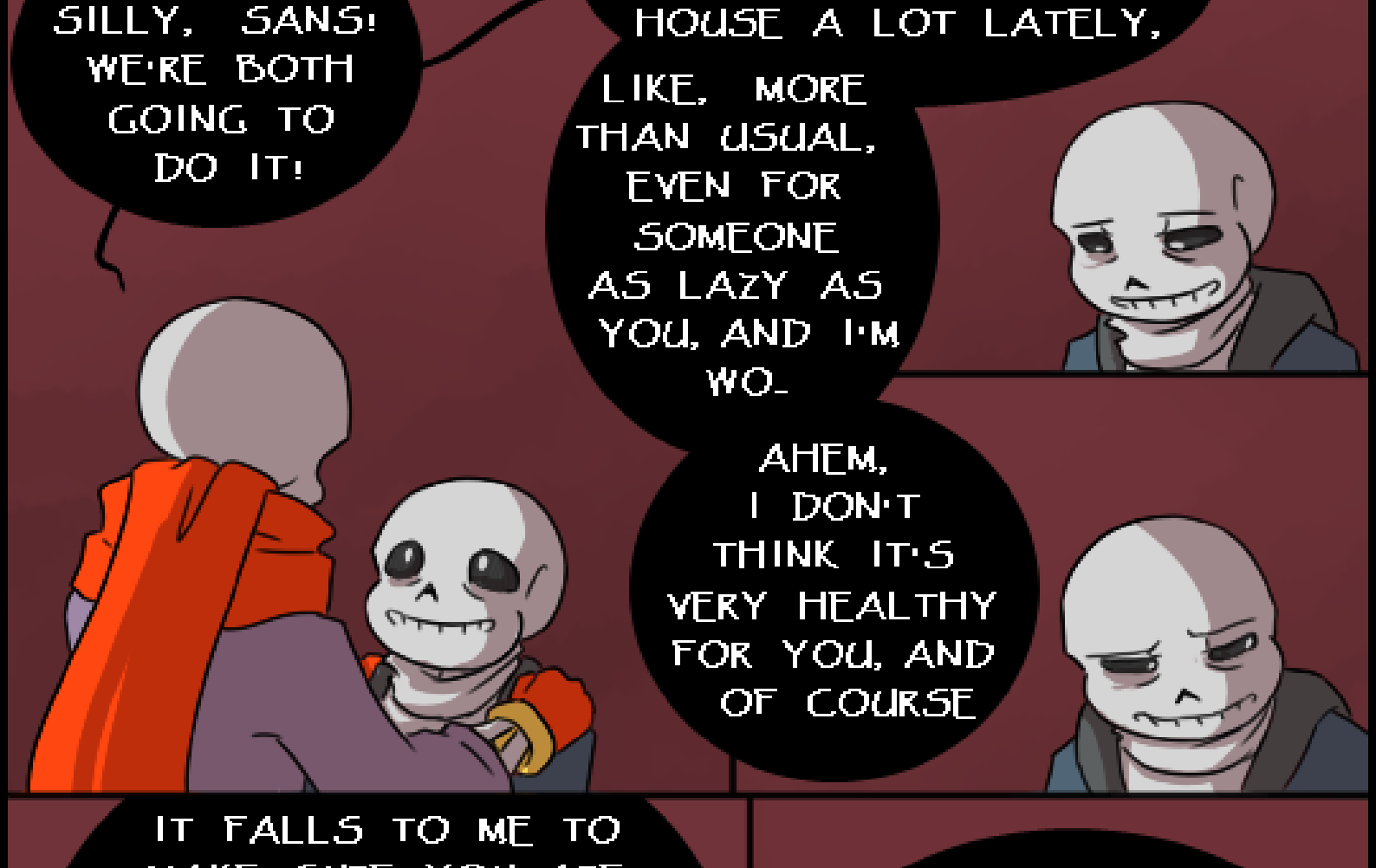
heh... of course she was. that sounds more doable.



but, uh, you said only one person fell down...? jeez.



but, that only makes one opening, doesn't it? this whole thing is your dream, you're the one who should really get it.



DON'T BE SILLY, SANS! WE'RE BOTH GOING TO DO IT!

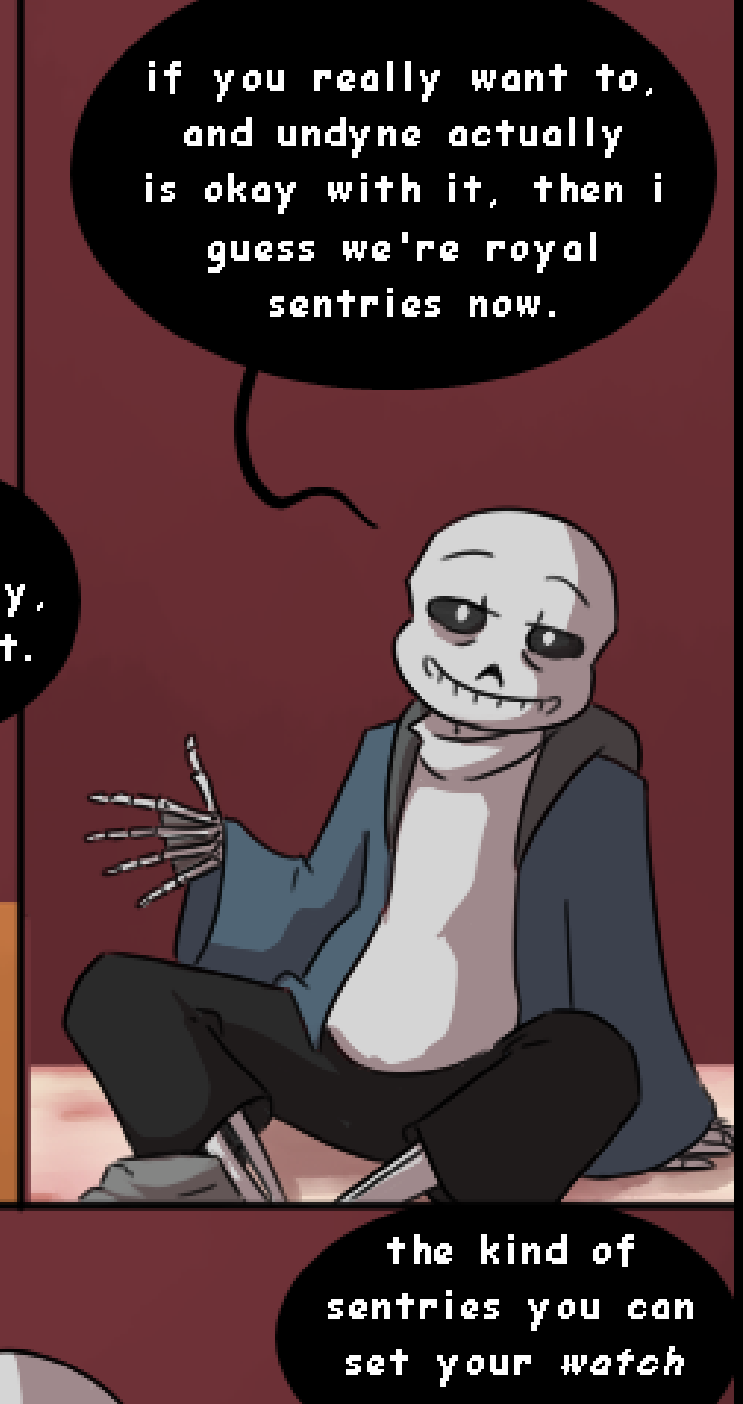
AND FRANKLY, YOU'VE BEEN LYING AROUND THE HOUSE A LOT LATELY, LIKE, MORE THAN USUAL, EVEN FOR SOMEONE AS LAZY AS YOU, AND I'M WO-

AHEM, I DON'T THINK IT'S VERY HEALTHY FOR YOU, AND OF COURSE



IT FALLS TO ME TO MAKE SURE YOU ARE DOING HEALTHY THINGS, EVEN IF YOU DON'T WANT TO, WHICH YOU NEVER WANT TO, WHICH MEANS I'M DOING IT ALL THE TIME.

okay okay okay, i get it.



if you really want to, and undyne actually is okay with it, then i guess we're royal sentries now.



YES!!

WE ARE!!



the kind of sentries you can set your watch to, heh.

OH MY GOD, SANS! SHUT UP!!!



huh, bro, you ever notice that the bars on your gate thingy are... a little wide?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? IS THAT A PROBLEM?

like, they're kind of big enough for someone to get through if they wanted.

that's not really a good gate for stopping someone, right?



NO, THEY'RE THE PERFECT AMOUNT OF SPACE WIDE! THEY'RE EXACTLY HOW I WANT THEM TO LOOK!



...ok, if you say so.

hff hff

ANYWAY, I'M GOING TO WORK ON SOME MORE DEVIUS TRAPS FOR ANY HUMANS THAT COME BY! YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO THE SENTRY STATION AND KEEP WATCH JUST IN CASE!

WE HAVE TO BE THE BEST SENTRIES IN THE WORLD IF WE'RE GOING TO GET PROMOTED TO OUR TRUE CALLING!



your true calling.

WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER, SANS!

SO YOU BETTER NOT LET ME DOWN!

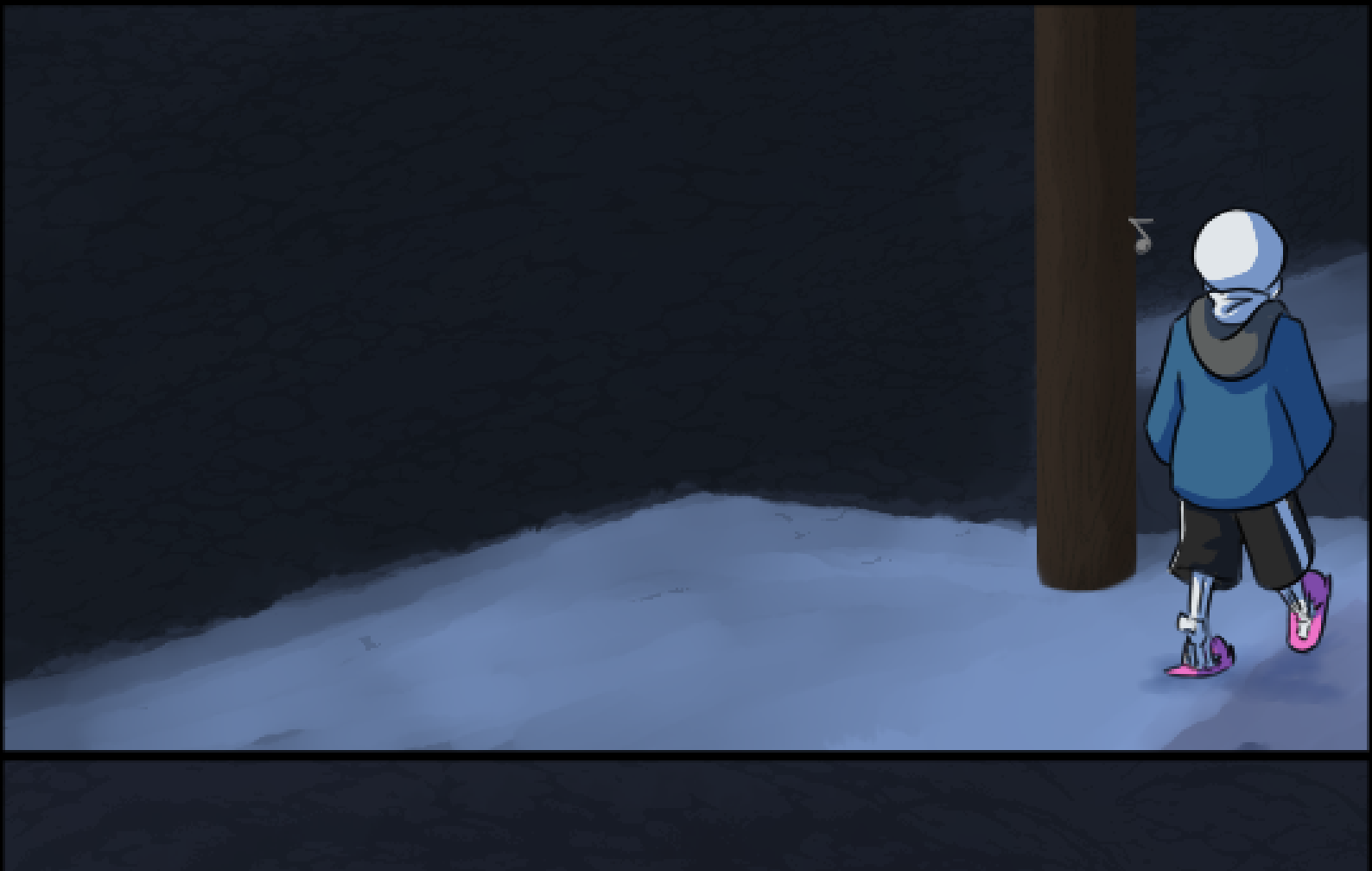
okay, okay. aye aye, captain.



THAT'S BETTER!

DON'T GO SLACKING OFF WHILE I'M GONE!

you got it.



huh,

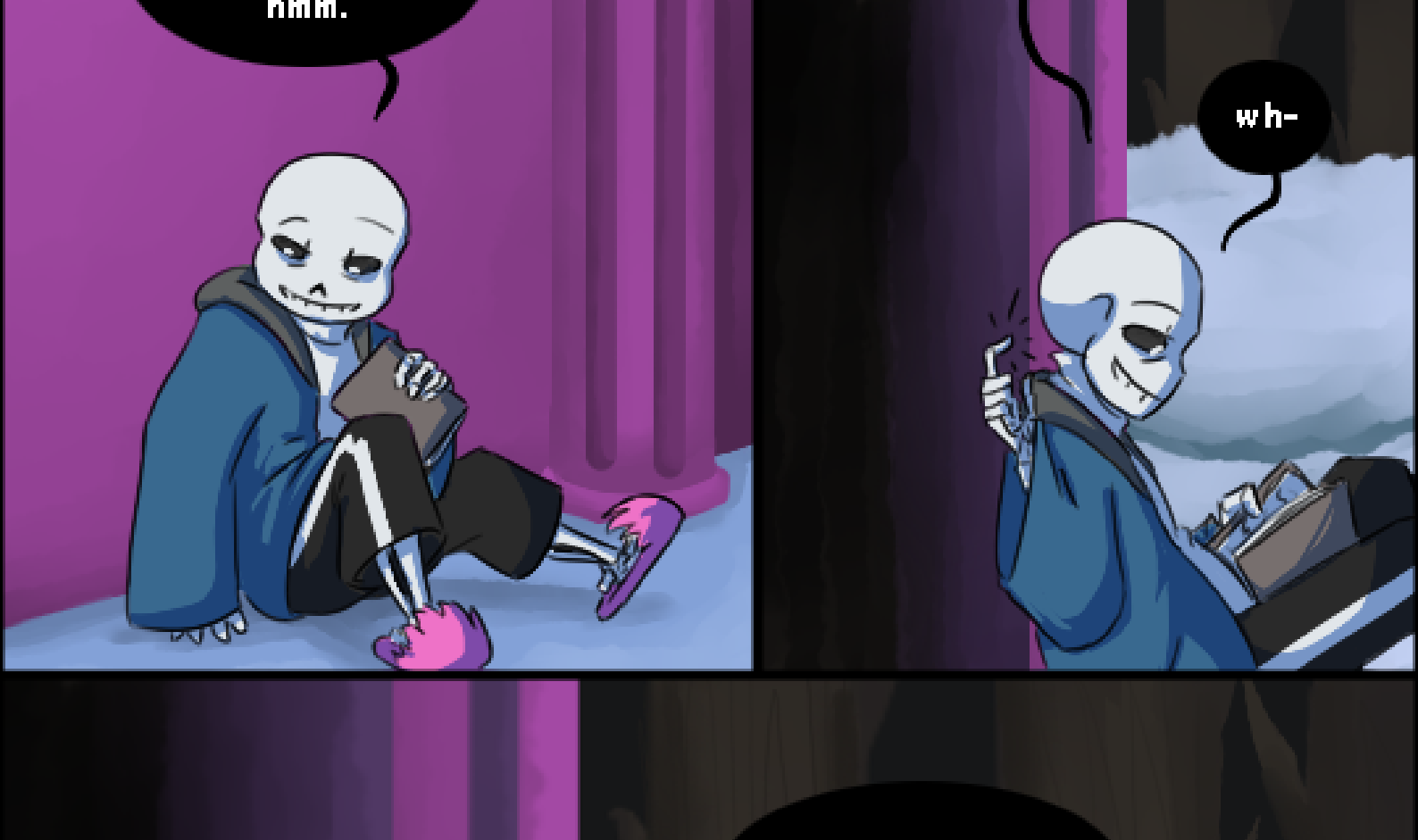
weird.



tho... kinda perfect. hmm.

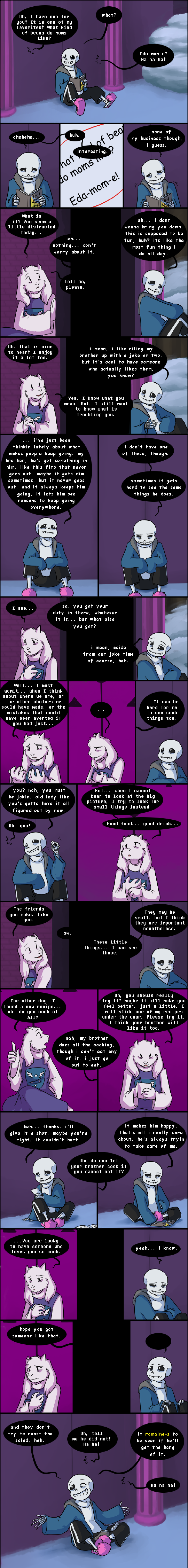
knock knock.

wh-



Who is there?





I'M TRYING TO SOLVE THIS FIENDISH PUZZLE, SANS! IT IS PERPLEXING TO THE MOST EXTREME!

hey bro. what're you up to?



let me see... bro, that's the horoscope.

horoscopes aren't puzzles, papyrus. they're just...

AHA! SO THE PUZZLE HAS A NAME! NOW I HAVE A DISTINCT ADVANTAGE!

YOU ARE DISTRACTING ME! I NEED TO THINK THINGS THROUGH CAREFULLY, SANS.



LOOK, SEE? EACH OF THESE PARAGRAPHS HAS A SERIES OF NUMBERS ASSOCIATED WITH THEM!

yeah, that's the-

NOW, I'VE GONE THROUGH EACH OF THESE PARAGRAPHS AND COUNTED HOW MANY LETTERS THERE ARE IN EACH WORD. THERE MUST BE A CORRELATION SOMEWHERE! A PATTERN HASN'T MADE ITSELF OBVIOUS YET, BUT THAT ONLY SHOWS WHAT A CLEVER ONION THIS PUZZLE IS! I SUSPECT THAT IT GOES EVEN DEEPER, WITH EACH LETTER CORRESPONDING TO A DIFFERENT NUMBER, LIKE A CIPHER! NOT LIKE A SKELETON ONE, A PUZZLE ONE!

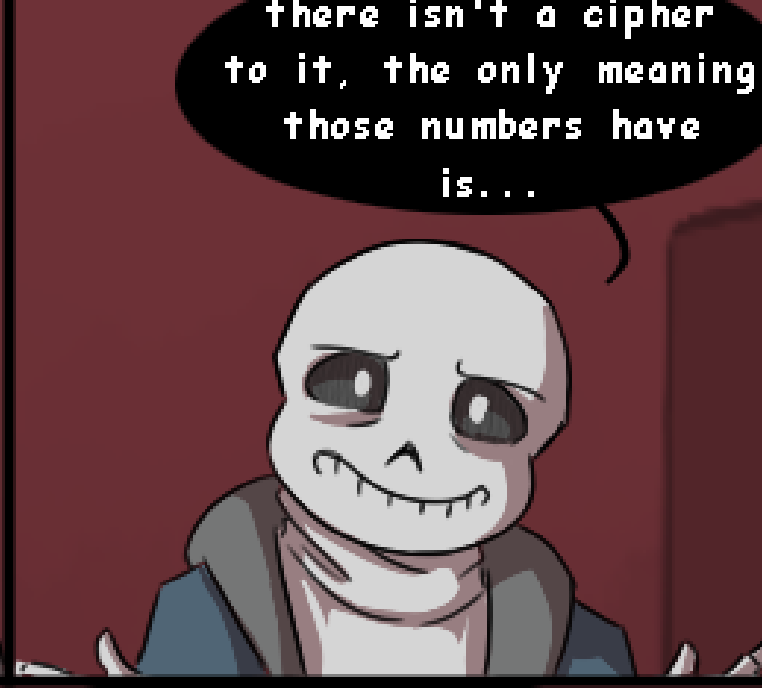


papyrus, it's not a puzzle, it's a horoscope. none of those numbers actually mean anything, they're just numbers.

I KNOW THESE NUMBERS MEAN SOMETHING! AND I'M NOT GOING TO REST UNTIL IT REVEALS ITS SECRETS! THIS ALPHABET CIPHER WILL BE THE KEY!

THAT'S JUST WHAT IT WANTS YOU TO THINK!

there isn't a cipher to it, the only meaning those numbers have is...



is the one you gave them...

I JUST HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHICH NUMBER GOES TO WHICH LETTER, AND IN WHICH WAY. THEN, THIS PUZZLE WILL FALL BEFORE ME!

... if you say it's a puzzle... then it is one.

and you can find your own answer, if you keep trying.

THAT'S WHAT I SAID!

DO YOU NOT REMEMBER HOW PUZZLES WORK, SANS? THAT'LL MAKE THINGS VERY DIFFICULT FOR OUR PATROLS TODAY!

OF COURSE! IT WILL ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME!

...i guess you just reminded me, heh. tell me when you solve it, huh?



yeah... i bet.





hey alphys.

O-oh.
hey Sans. Um...
w-what's up?

ah, nothing.
same as usual. just
thought i'd see what
you were doin.

Oh, you
know...

w-working hard,
ha ha...

made any
decisions lately?

U-uh...
uh, so?

What's up?
With you?

U-what
have you been
doing? I-I mean... it
can't just be nothing,
right? What about
Papyrus? I bet, he's
been doing things...
h-he's always doing
things, right?

yeah, he's a
regular machine. you
seen his battle
body yet?

U-uh, his...
what?

that's what he
calls it, heh. i got
invited to a costume
party a while back, and
we made the perfect
costumes for it. he was
a cool superhero, and
i was his faithful

sidekick. making quips and letting
him do all the work. role i was
born to play, to be honest.

Uh, wait,
you said, only
you got invited
...? Did
Papyrus not
get...?

why would i go
to a party without
papyrus?

Uh... right,
haha.

anyway he won't
take it off, he thinks it's
the coolest thing. which
it is.

Y-yeah,
that sounds like
fun...

bratty mentioned that
she invited you, too. but
you didn't show.

O-oh,
yeah, I...

I was busy,
I, uh, couldn't
... find the
time... you know
how it is...
I've got...

a lot of
things I have
to take care
of...

yeah. i know.

...

her and catty
missed seeing you though.
lot of people were asking
where you've been
lately.

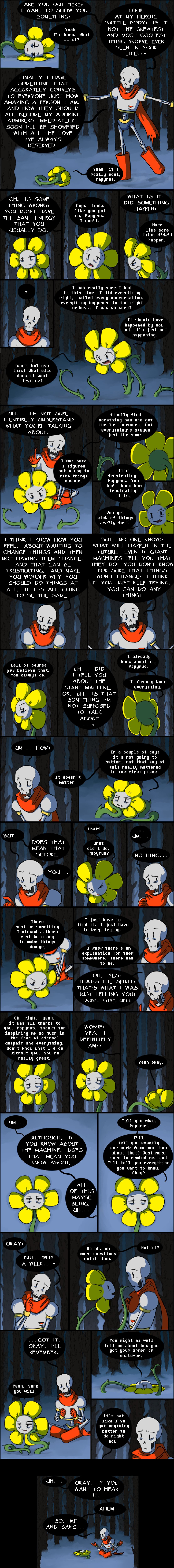
...anyway,
good luck with
your stuff.

just
thought i'd
see how it was
all going.

R... right.
Okay.

later.

Bye...





bro, come on, the whole town's evacuated.

we gotta get outta here.

YOU GO ON AHEAD. I'LL CATCH UP WITH YOU.

...papyrus. you're coming with me. we're going to leave together.

YOU ALREADY KNOW I'M NOT GOING TO, SANS.

papyrus, you don't have to do this!

you don't have to- there's no reason you have to- it's not going to work-

IF I CAN STOP THEM, I HAVE TO TRY, SANS.

I CAN'T LET THEM KEEP DOING THIS. I HAVE TO HELP THEM CHANGE.

you DON'T have to help them! you don't have to do this! don't do this!

I CAN'T JUST WALK AWAY, SANS! I HAVE TO TRY!

you CAN just walk away!

god-

you're going to get killed! you KNOW you're going to get killed!

don't do this! don't do this...

don't do this to me.

THEY NEED ME TO SHOW THEM THE RIGHT WAY. I HAVE TO REACH THEM.

that kid's already killed a ton of people! why are you throwing every thing away for them?

why are you throwing me away for this? why are you doing this to me?! that kid doesn't need you, i need you!

YOU ALREADY KNOW HOW TO BE GOOD, SANS.

BUT THEY DON'T KNOW HOW TO BE GOOD. I HAVE TO TEACH THEM BEFORE ANYONE ELSE GETS HURT.

I DON'T NEED TO TEACH YOU THAT.

THEY NEED ME TO HELP THEM.

and what if it doesn't work, papyrus? what if they don't change at all?

what happens to me?

what happens to me when you're gone??

we...

you said we can change things, you said we can make our own destiny,

you SAID that! you can make your own choices, you don't have to do this...

I DO HAVE TO DO THIS.

AND NOT BECAUSE THE MACHINE TOLD ME TO.

AND YOU KNOW WHY I HAVE TO TRY.

i don't know why you're doing this-

why are you doing this?!

SANS...

IN THE RED AND GOLD PLACE...

DO YOU EVER SEE ME?

AM I EVER THERE WITH YOU?

I'M NOT, AM I?

AND YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, DON'T YOU?

THAT'S WHY YOU'RE TRYING TO CONVINCE ME TO COME WITH YOU.

BUT, IF I CAME WITH YOU... I'D BE AT THE RED AND GOLD PLACE WITH YOU, WOULDN'T I?

SO YOU ALREADY KNOW WHAT HAPPENS.

...

BUT YOU'RE STILL HERE.

YOU'RE STILL TRYING TO CONVINCE ME TO COME WITH YOU.

i can't...

i can't just let you...

i have to try...

I KNOW.

AND I HAVE TO TRY TOO.

EVEN IF WE ALREADY KNOW... I HAVE TO TRY.

I CAN'T NOT TRY.

i can't...

i can't lose you.

i can't, i can't.

please.

please don't do this.

i can't live without you.

WE BOTH KNOW YOU CAN.

IT'LL BE OKAY, SANS.

I'M GOING TO FIX IT.

I'M GOING TO CHANGE THINGS. YOU'LL SEE.

please don't go.

please don't do this.

please don't leave me.

I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN, SANS. WAIT FOR ME. I'LL SEE YOU AGAIN.

WAIT FOR ME.

YOU'LL SEE.

WE'LL BE TOGETHER AGAIN BEFORE YOU KNOW IT.



Papyrus they're
evacuating \$nowdin.
come to our meeting
place ASAP

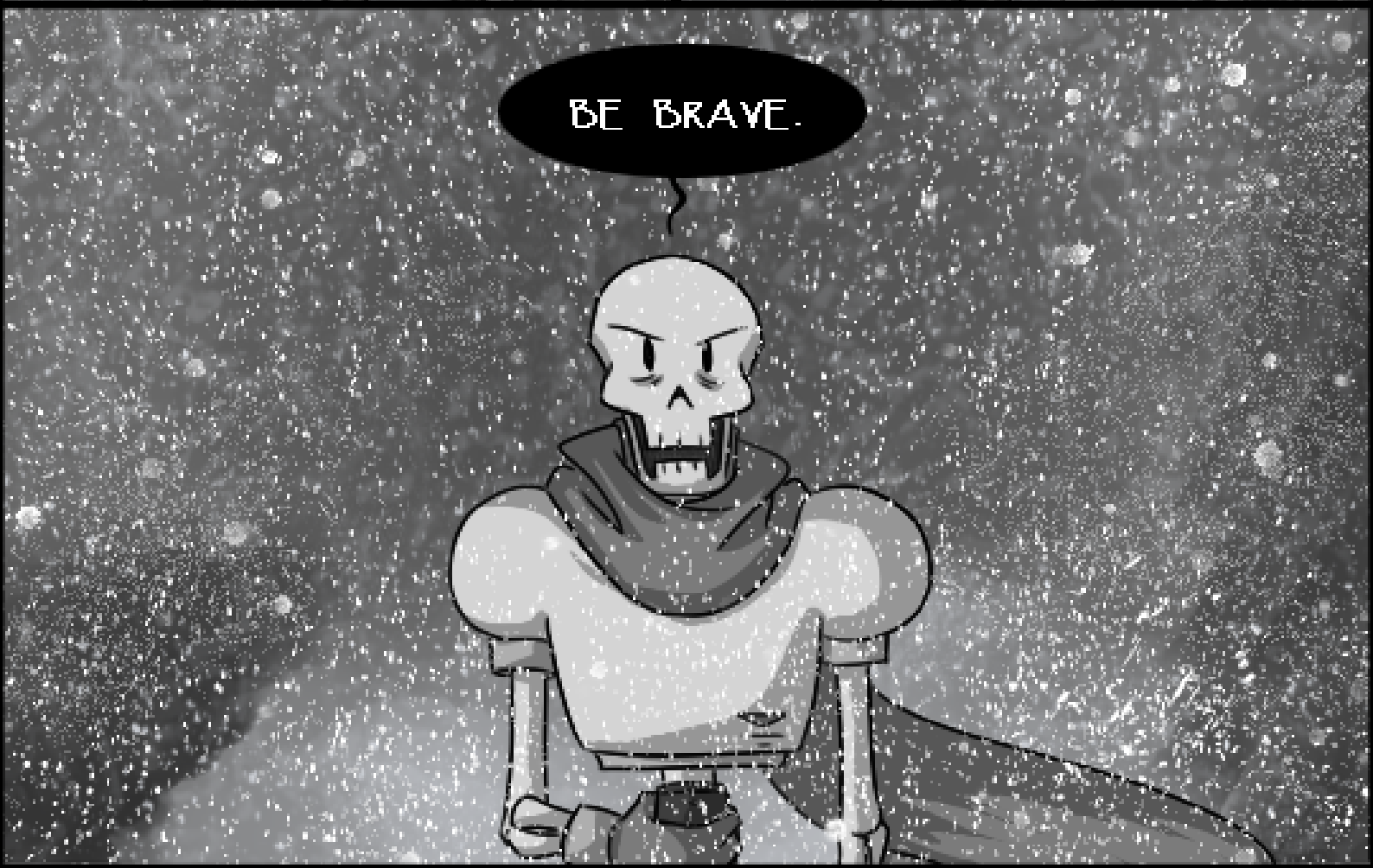
that's AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

there's a human on
the loose and it's
not safe there anymore

come meet me NOW

I'll take care of
the human. just come
to the meeting place
and bring your lazy
brother

Papyrus ANSWER ME so
i know you're okay!!!



we all make choices.



it's really weird knowing
that something's happened,
but you can't see it or
remember it yourself.

you know it's true,
but there's no proof
anywhere.

i guess it's
more like faith
at that point.

it makes everything
feel pretty unreal.

but it already felt
that way anyway
after he left.

it's weird.

i see you coming,
for real this time.
not just dimensional
echoes, or whatever.

a lot of stuff goes
through my mind,

and i'm not sure if it's
just my natural thoughts, or
some kind of echo effect.

i think, maybe
i'll ask you if
you can be good...

but maybe i
already have.

i keep thinking
of good lines
to give you,

but somewhere
it feels like
i've already
said them.

and at the
same time...

why bother,
you know?

i can see your
face now.

if my guess
is right...

let's just get
to the point.

then you've
already heard
anything i
could have
said anyway.

well, i hope those other
sansas got better lines
than i did.

he died for what
he believed in.

it was that important to him.

he knew he was going
to fail, but he tried
anyway.

somewhere in
there. i can
feel it.

he really believed in you.

at the time, i didn't
understand, but now i do.

there's a
glimmer of a
good person
inside of
you.

even after
everything
you've done...

the memory
of someone

who once
wanted to do
the right
thing.

i still want to believe
that you can change.

someone who, in
another time, might
have even been...

a friend?

even though i know you
won't, i still want to try.

c'mon, buddy.

do you
remember me?

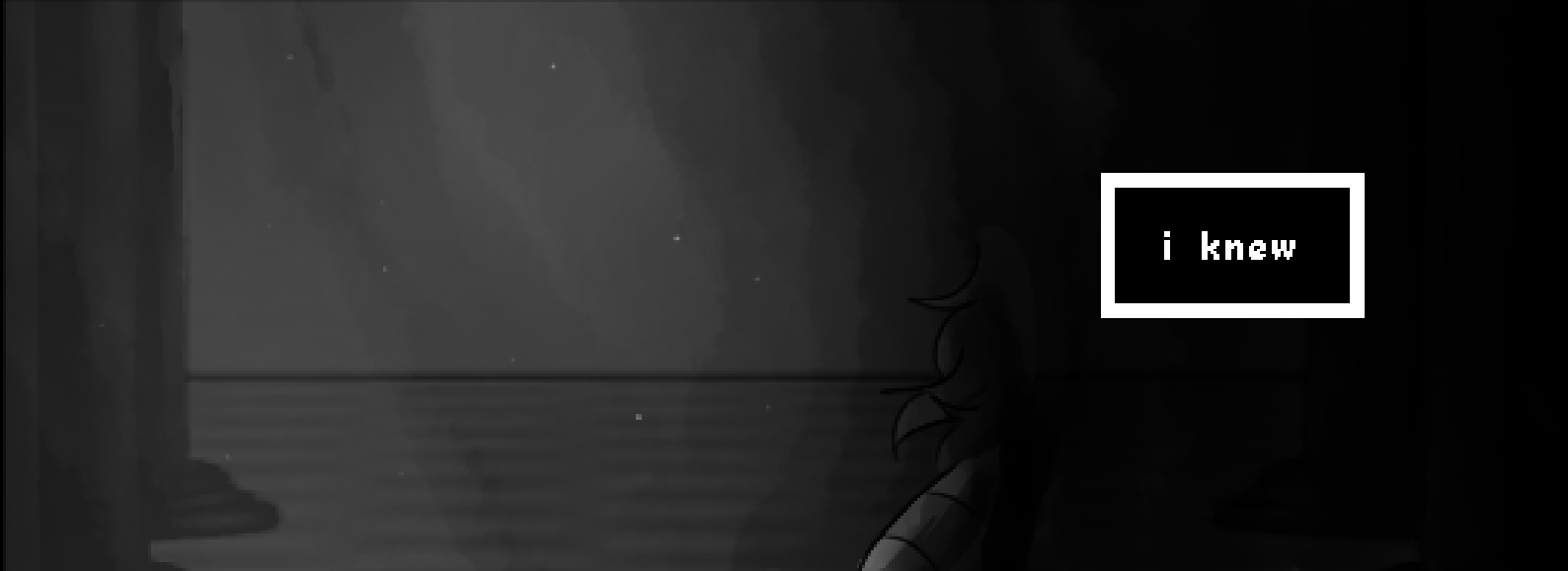
i have to try.

in the end... i guess we're the same after all.

we can't help it.



heh



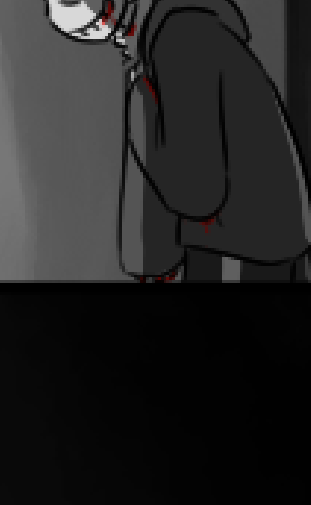
i knew



you'd get on my bad side.

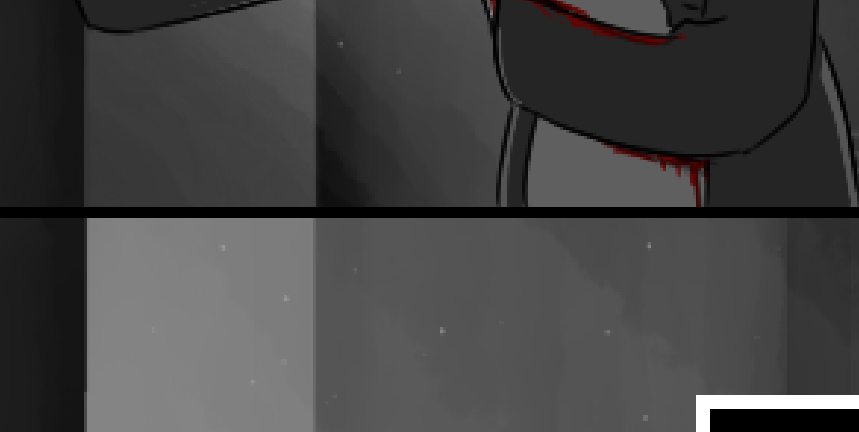
you know,

dying isn't a
lot of fun.



it kinda sucks
actually.

but the worst part
of it isn't even
the dying

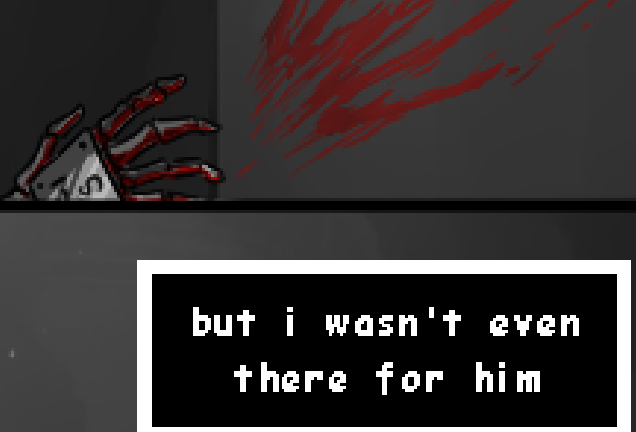


it's that
i'm alone



like some part of
me keeps thinking

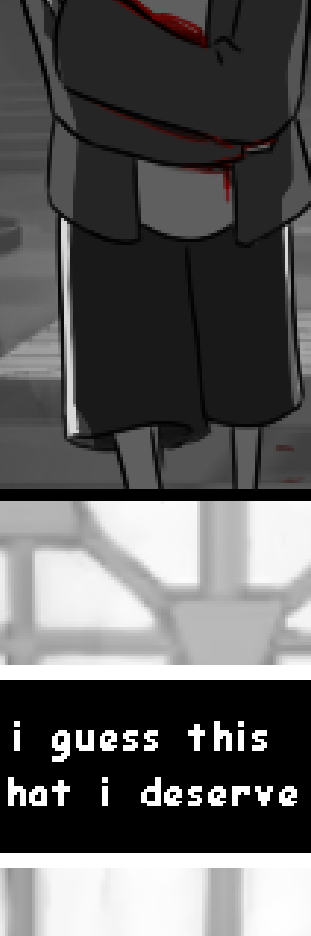
this wouldn't be so bad



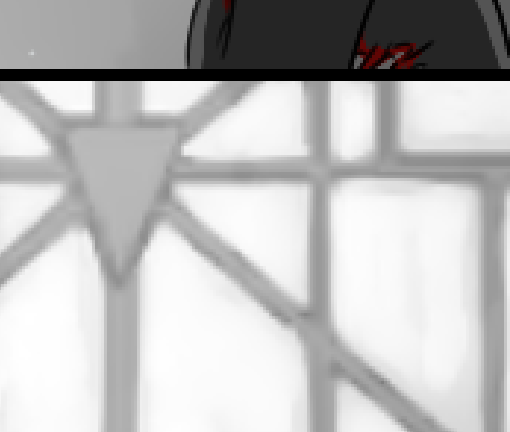
if he was here
with me

but i wasn't even
there for him

or anyone



so i guess this
is what i deserve



for just letting
it happen

but still,

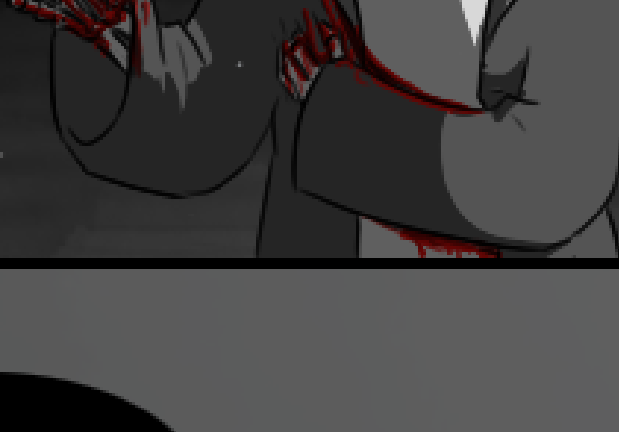


all i want...

all i want is
to see him...

one last time...

papyrus...



i bet,

he's already
forgiven me...

do you want
anything...?

that's the kind
of guy he is.



ERASE

DO NOT

There's more to this world than just meanness.

THERE'S MORE TO THIS WORLD THAN JUST MEANNESS.

They have it in them somewhere, ~~IT~~ IN THEM SOMEWHERE.

I'm sure of it. I'M SURE OF IT.

They could be good, if they ^{wanted to} ~~could be~~ good, if they wanted to.

If they just tried. IF THEY JUST TRIED.

You think you are above consequences.

Yes

No

EVERYONE CAN MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE, IF THEY JUST TRY.

Everyone can make the right choice, if they just try.

The will to keep living...
The resolve to change fate.

YOU CAN ALWAYS BE GOOD, NO MATTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE.

You can always be good, no matter what you've done.

You can do a little better, even if you don't think so.

YOU CAN DO A LITTLE BETTER, EVEN IF YOU DON'T THINK SO.

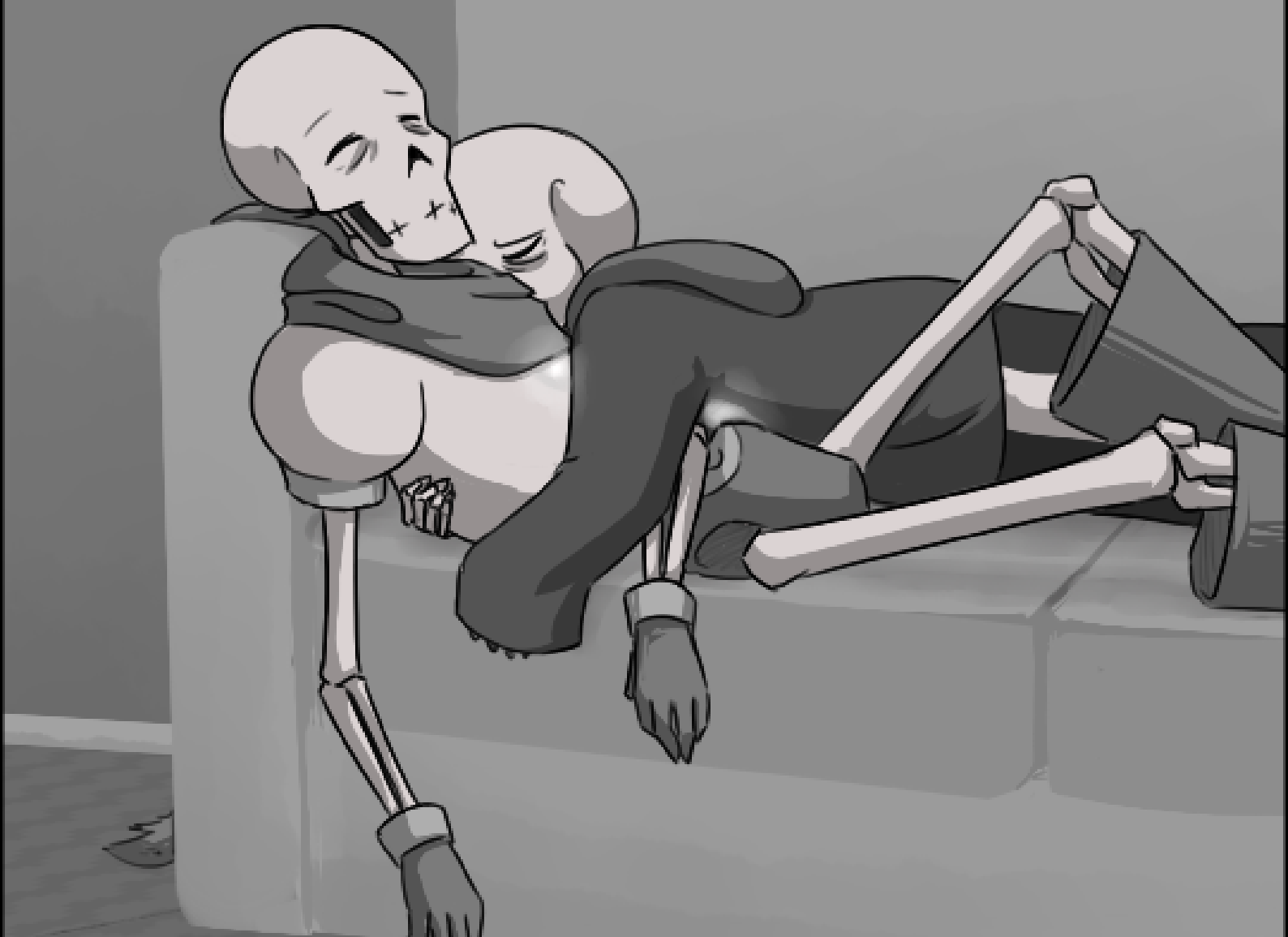
Let's call this power...

I believe in you.

I BELIEVE IN YOU.

There's more to this world than just people hurting each other.

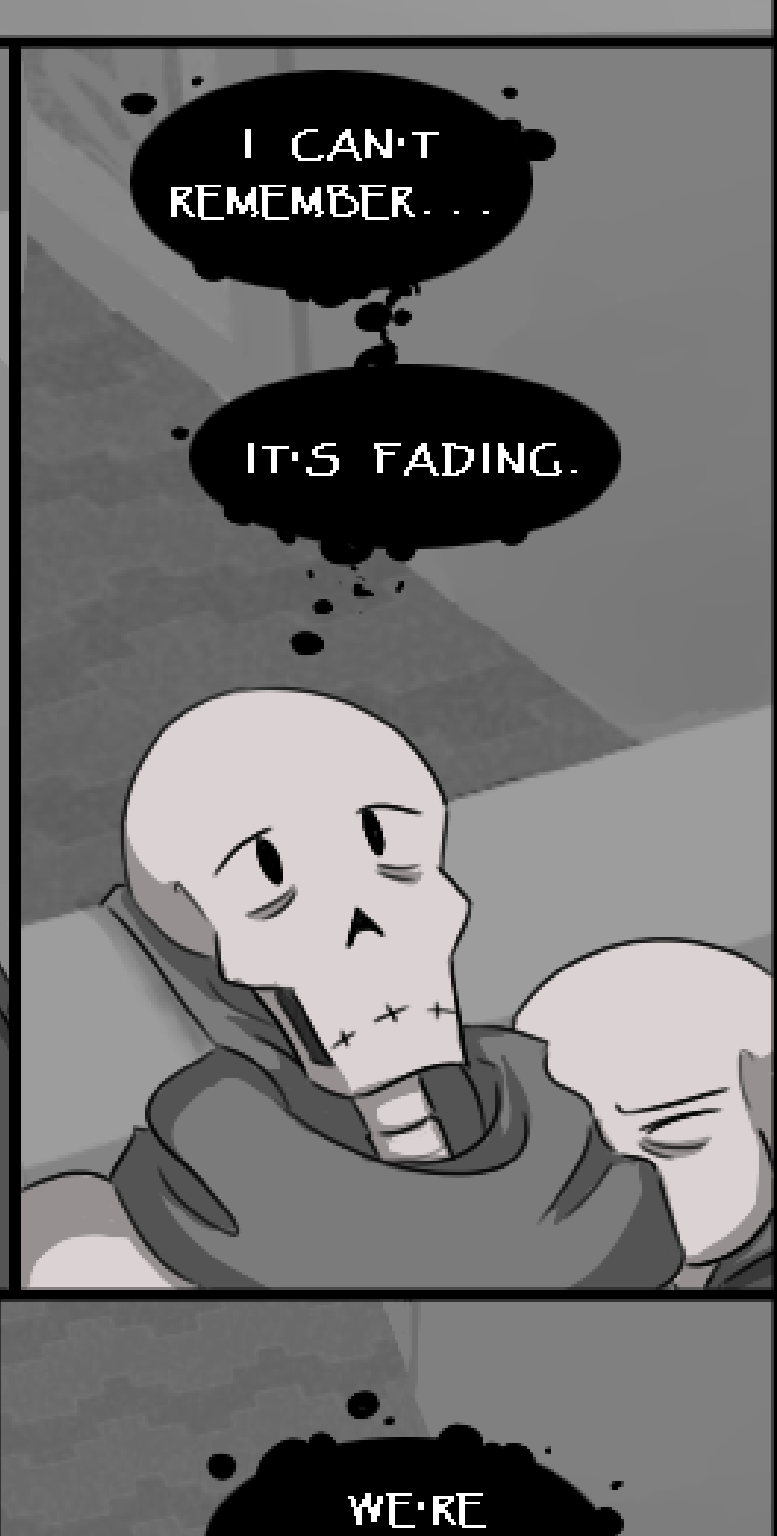
"Determination."



MMPH...

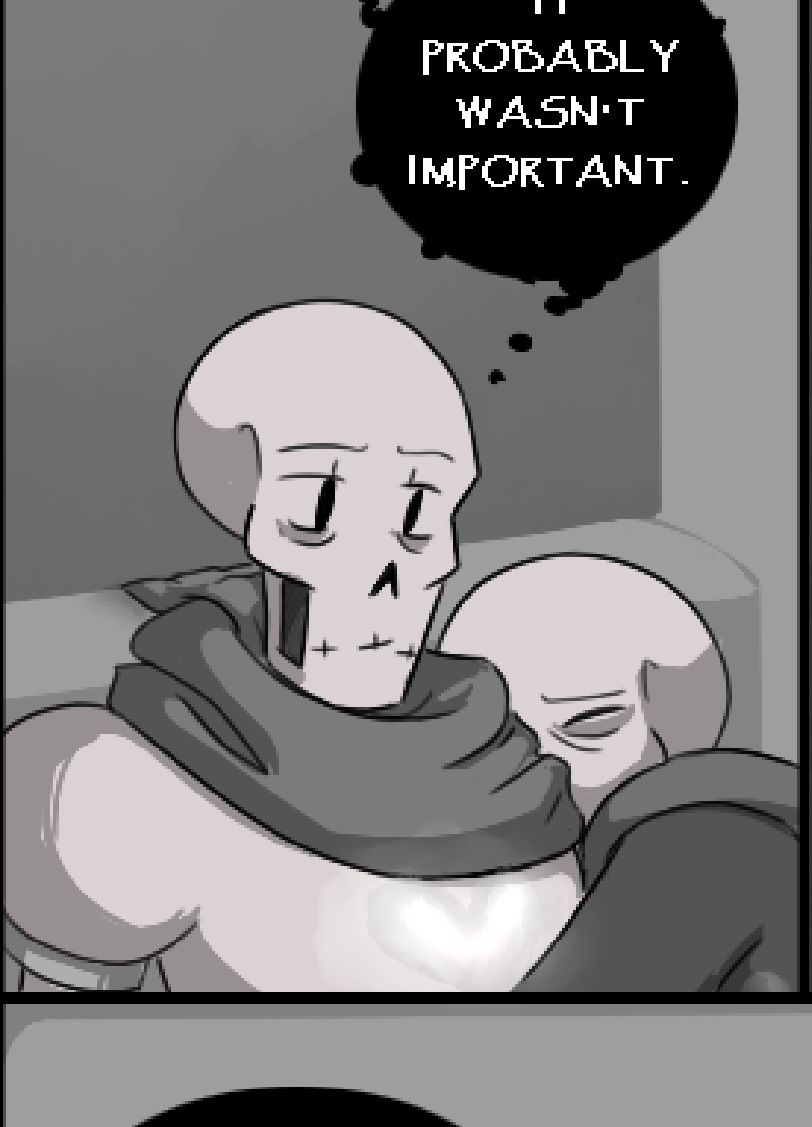
WAS I DREAMING...?

WHAT HAPPENED...



I CAN'T REMEMBER...

IT'S FADING.

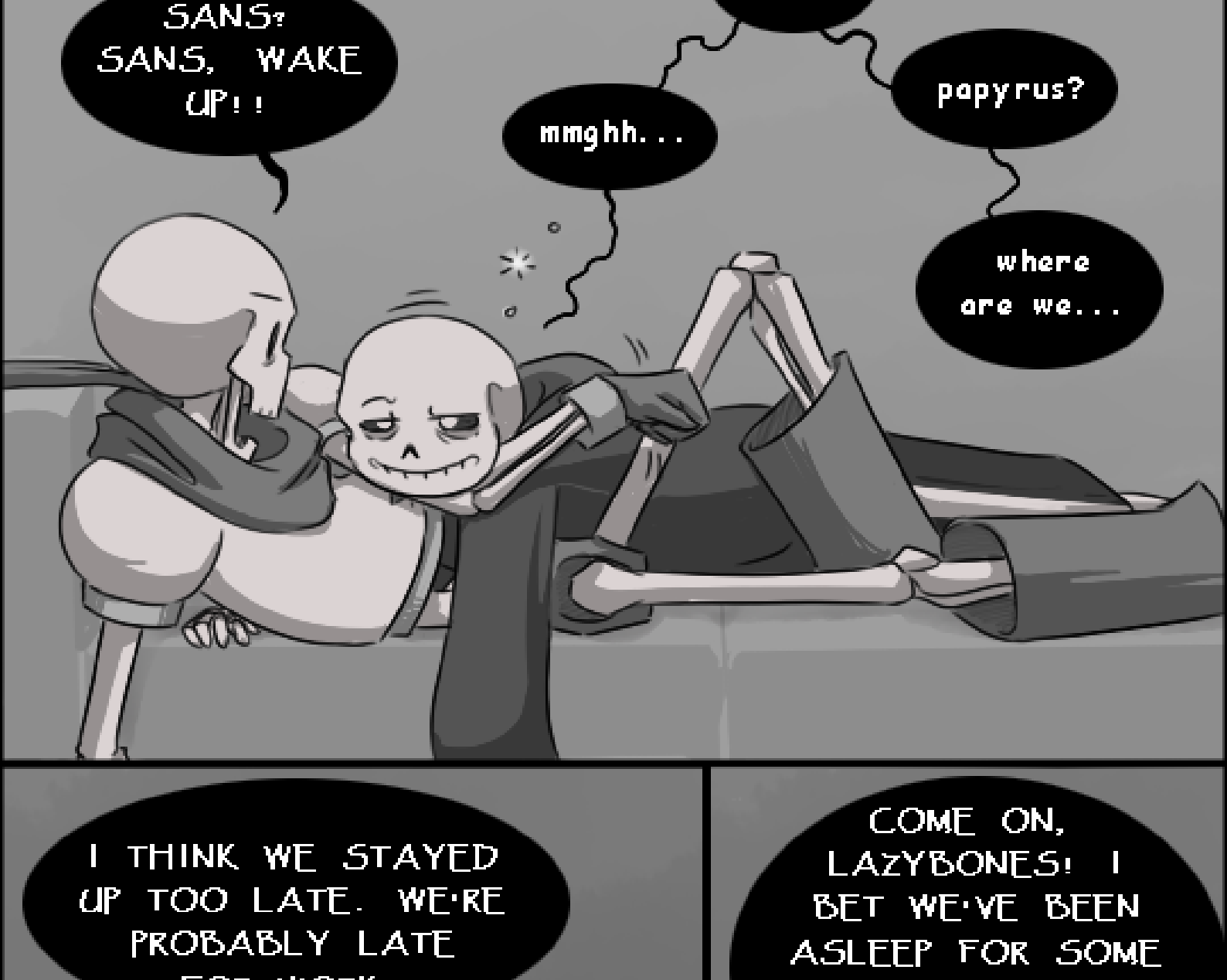


WELL...

IT PROBABLY WASN'T IMPORTANT.



WE'RE GLOWING...



SANS? SANS, WAKE UP!!

mmghh...

nnh...

papyrus?

where are we...



I THINK WE STAYED UP TOO LATE. WE'RE PROBABLY LATE FOR WORK!

uuuuuughhhh



COME ON, LAZYBONES! I BET WE'VE BEEN ASLEEP FOR SOME UNGODLY AMOUNT OF TIME! LIKE THREE WHOLE HOURS!!

uuuuuuuuuuuuUUUGH



I WONDER WHAT I WAS DREAMING OF...

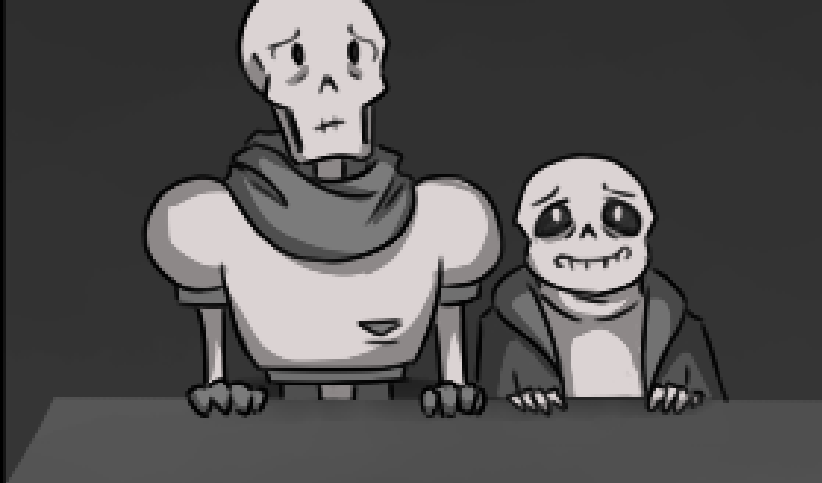
WELL, IT WAS PROBABLY NOTHING.

another bunch of not-memories yesterday. i'm not sure what it means. maybe whoever's doing this turned us off and on again?

maybe we just don't... know when the game gets turned off?

i still don't even know if that's what we're in.

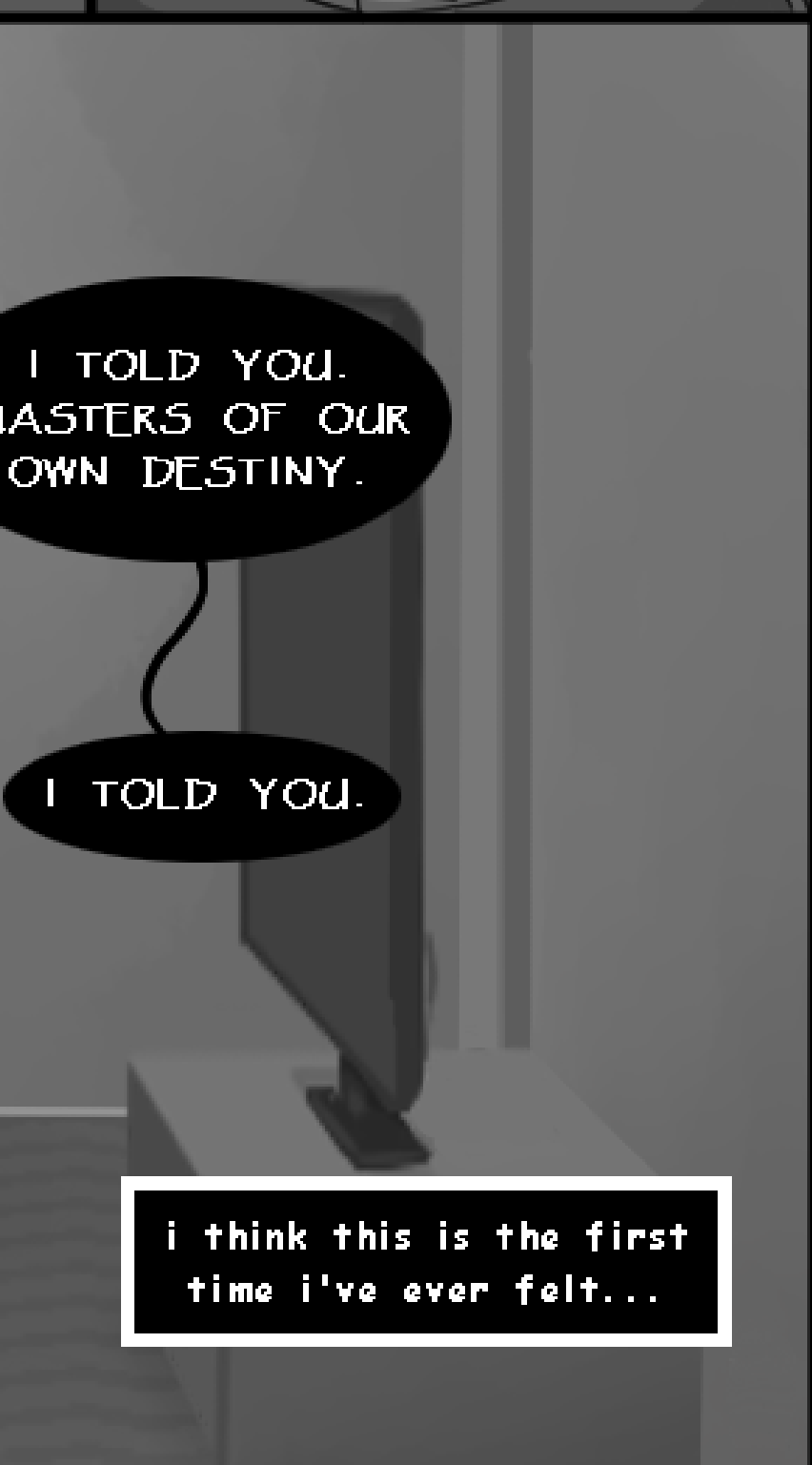
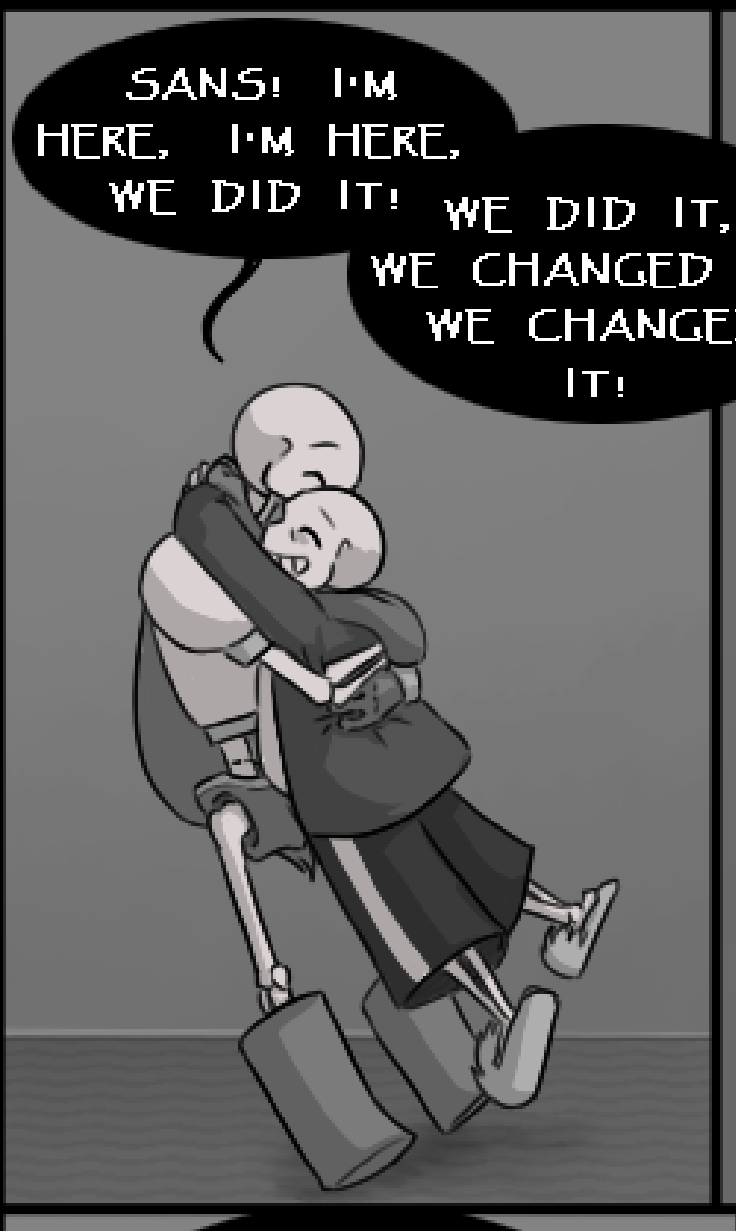
me and papyrus went and checked the computer... but everything was still the same. the files didn't change.



but...



something else did.



hope.



i guess this is it.

well, it was a pretty good run while it lasted.

where am i...?

SANS! papyrus!

SANS, WHERE ARE YOU??

papyrus! papyrus!!

SANS, WHERE ARE WE!?

WHAT'S GOING ON?? WHAT'S HAPPENING???

SANS, THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE ALRIGHT! DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING? WHERE ARE WE??

gotcha! don't let go!

don't let go, don't let go

DON'T WORRY, I'VE GOT YOU!

I'VE GOT THIS ALL UNDER CONTROL!

I'LL GET US OUT OF HERE, WHERE...

don't let go, don't let go of me.

no matter what... no matter what, don't...

EVER THIS IS...

I'LL...

I WILL...

I MUST...

SANS, IS THERE SOMETHING I WAS SUPPOSED TO ...?

SANS, I NEED TO ...

I HAVE TO CAPTURE A HUMAN. HAVE YOU SEEN A HUMAN, SANS...?

I HAVE TO...

i...

don't care...

SANS!! DON'T FALL ASLEEP! YOU HAVE TO HELP ME-

SANS!!

i...

can't...

SANS, DON'T DO THIS NOW!!

YOU HAVE TO STAY AWAKE TO HELP ME-

HELP ME GET OUT-

HELP ME...

CAPTURE...

it doesn't matter...

nothing matters.

SANS, DON'T DO THIS!!

NOT NOW!!

I NEED YOU!!

YOU HAVE TO...

why even...
why even try, what's the point...?
what's the point of even being-

SANS, DON'T YOU DARE-!

NOT NOW, NOT EVER!

NEVER EVER!

I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU GIVE UP, SANS. DO YOU HEAR ME?

I'LL SAVE US!

I'LL SAVE US BOTH!!

I'VE GOT YOU!

I'VE GOT YOU...

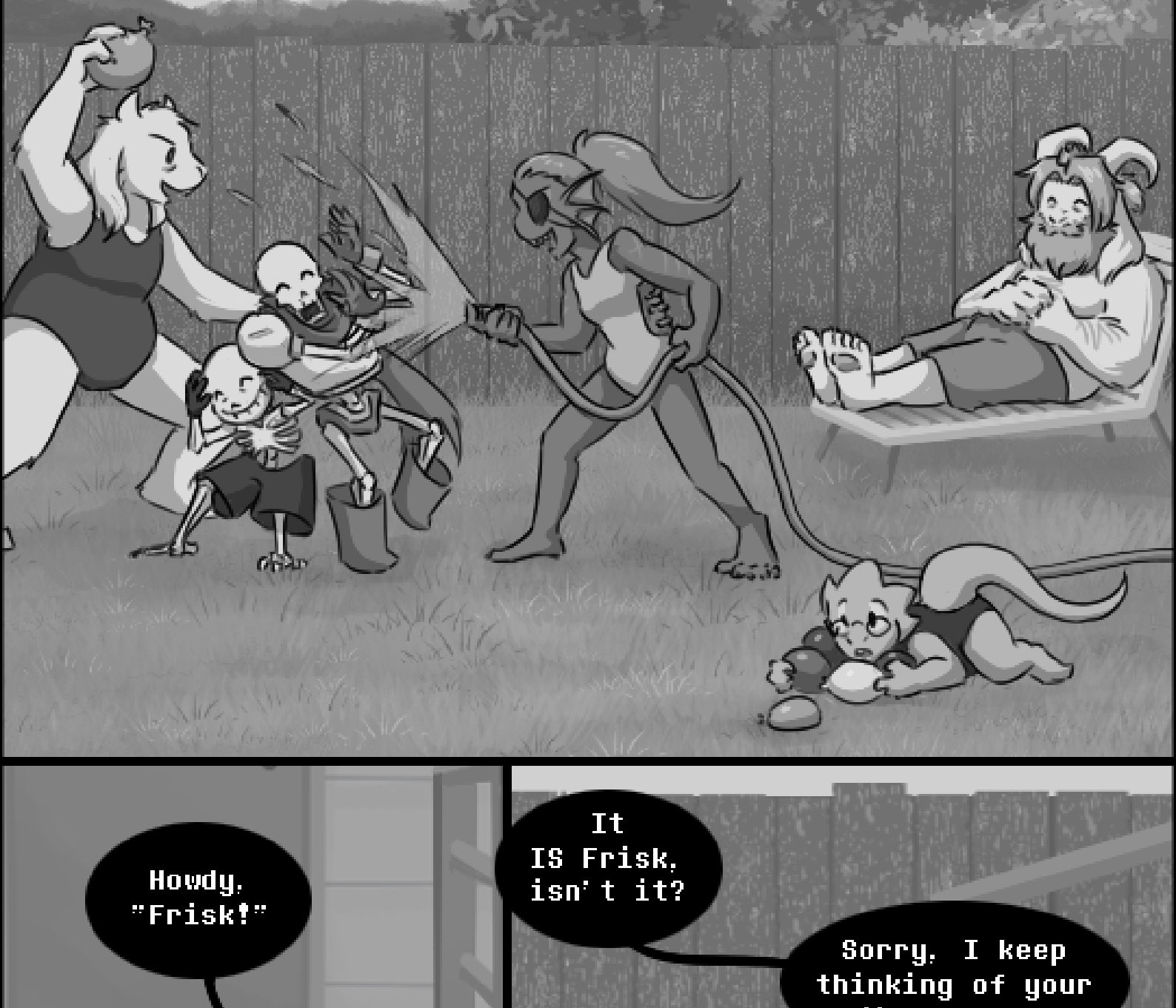
SANS, DO YOU...

HEAR SOMETHING ...?



NOTICE:

I hurt my arm working on the last comic, and it still hasn't healed yet. :(I haven't been drawing or doing anything with it to let it heal, but that does mean there won't be an update until it's better. The next comic is going to be very long and difficult too... MAYBE it will be a little better in a week... I don't know. As soon as I can I'm going to get back to work on comics, but I'm just not sure when I'll be able to get the next one done, sorry. :(Please be patient...



Howdy,
"Frisk!"



It
IS Frisk,
isn't it?

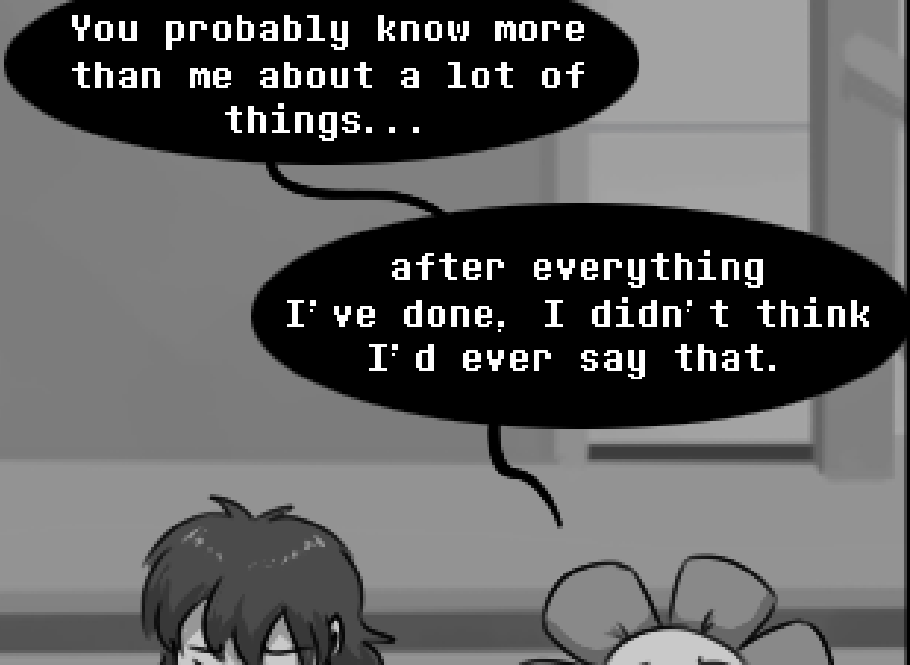
Sorry, I keep
thinking of your
other name...

oh, I guess
it wasn't *your*
other name,
was it?



Sometimes it
still feels like it
was though...

but I guess you'd
know what your name
is, huh?



You probably know more
than me about a lot of
things...

after everything
I've done, I didn't think
I'd ever say that.



but I guess
none of us can
really know
EVERYthing, even
about...

a "world"
like ours.



You know...
Papyrus was my
favorite.

I really
loved him.



I broke him
every way I could
think of:

mentally,

physically,

emotionally...

just so I could
KNOW him.

I liked him that much.



You know
what I mean?

...No, I
guess you
wouldn't,
huh?



You weren't
like me...

you're a better
person than I
was.

Maybe better
than all of us,
in the end.



Well... not
Papyrus.

I did things to him
you can't even imagine
to try and get him to
hurt someone else,

and every time,
he'd rather die
than do it.



...I guess me and Radic are
more alike than I thought,
huh...?



Well... not
Papyrus.

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you can't even imagine
to try and get him to
hurt someone else,

and every time,
he'd rather die
than do it.



...I guess me and Radic are
more alike than I thought,
huh...?



It's
hard to accept
when things can't
change...

especially
when you've been
able to change
them for so
long.



I just have to
live with what I am, and
what I did, and what
I do from now on.

That's
okay.



I hurt so
many people.

It's
only fair that
all of you should
get this, after
everything
I've done.

I'm
okay.



I should
go though...

if I stick around,
I might ruin something,
and I don't want to
do that anymore.

Maybe I'll see
you later. I don't
know.



Sometimes
it's just hard
to be here.

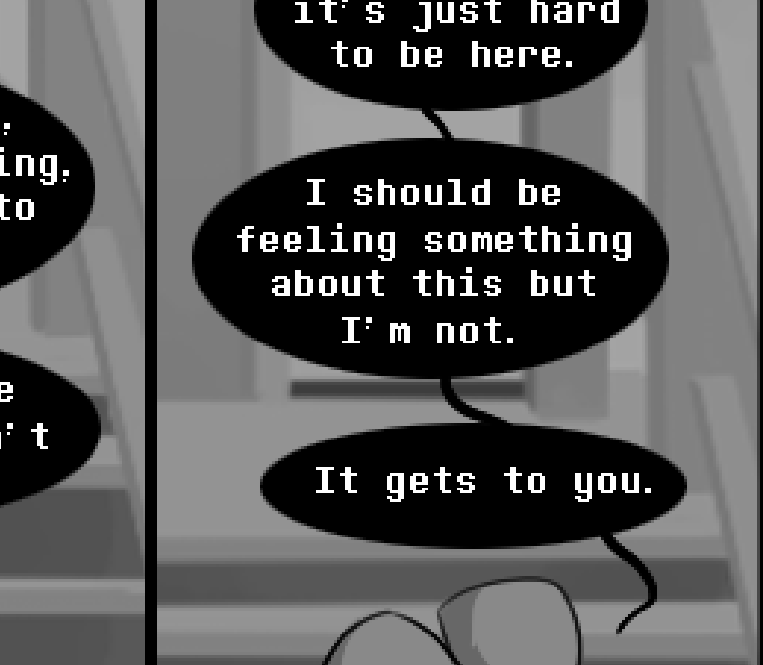
I should be
feeling something
about this but
I'm not.

It gets to you.



I don't know if
someone like you could
really understand
that feeling though...

or that not-feeling.
I guess.



Can I ask
you something
though?

I could never
figure it out
before...

boy, it
drove me
crazy.



That was one of
the reasons I kept
playing with the two of
them, so I could try
and find the answer,
but I never could.



And I don't
think I ever will
now that I can't
reset anymore.



That was one of
the reasons I kept
playing with the two of
them, so I could try
and find the answer,
but I never could.

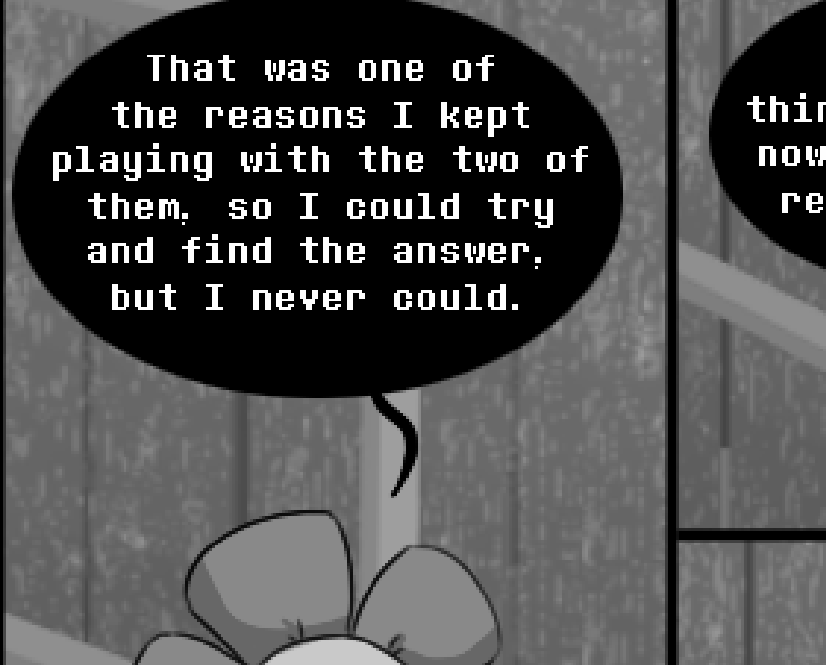
or that not-feeling.
I guess.



Can I ask
you something
though?

I could never
figure it out
before...

boy, it
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or that not-feeling.
I guess.



And I don't
think I ever will
now that I can't
reset anymore.



I learned this about myself a while ago.



I didn't want it to be true, but I couldn't say it wasn't.

```
Fun="1.000000"  
Name="Radic"  
Love="1.000000"  
Time="523695.000000"  
Kills="0.000000"
```

Not after what I did.

```
Fun="911.000000"  
Name="Radic"  
Love="1.000000"  
Time="523695.000000"  
Kills="0.000000"
```

Have you ever thought about a world where everything is exactly the same...



Except you don't exist?



The person you thought I was is dead and gone, but still, you knew me better than anyone.



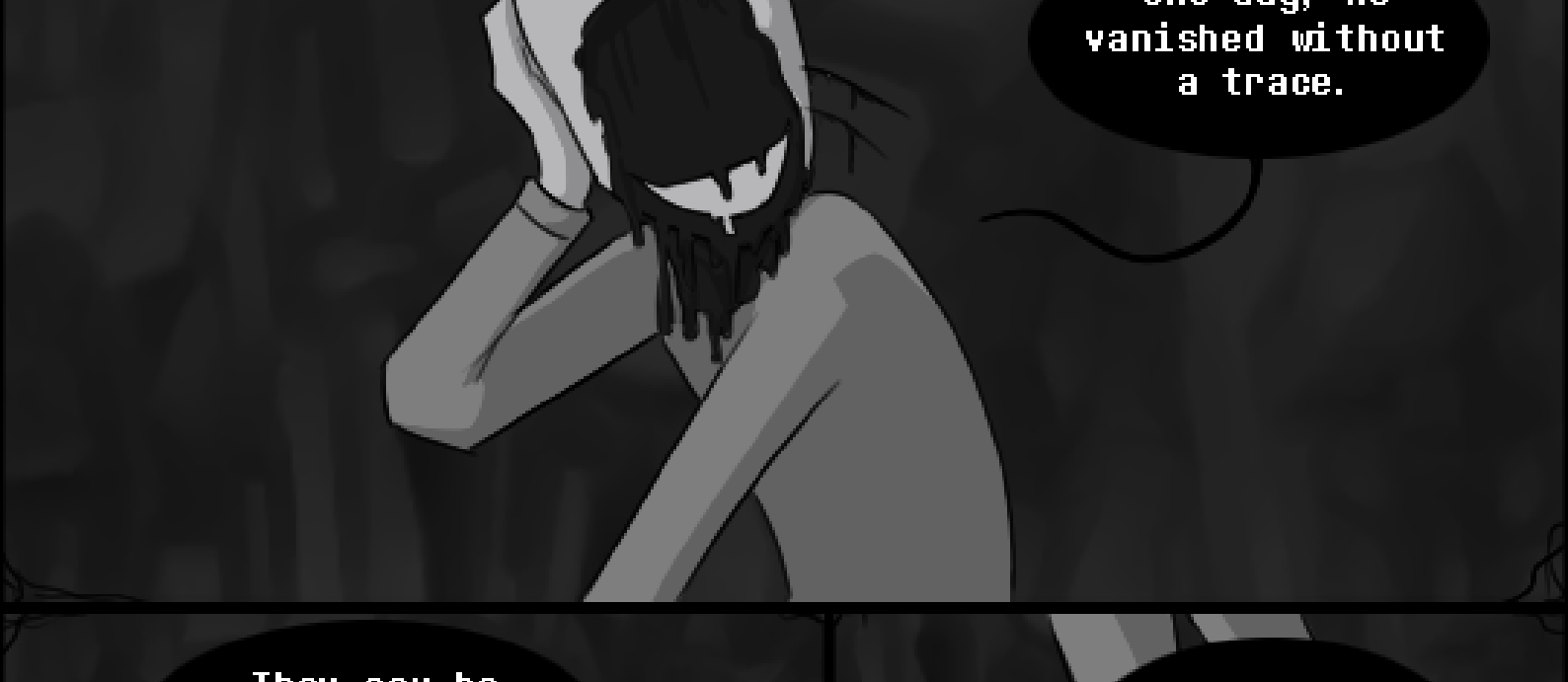
```
Fun="61.000000"  
Name="Radic"  
Love="1.000000"  
Time="523695.000000"  
Kills="0.000000"
```

What makes me so determined.

```
Fun="611.000000"  
Name="Radic"  
Love="1.000000"  
Time="523695.000000"  
Kills="0.000000"
```

Alphys might work faster. But the old Royal Scientist, Doctor W. D. Gaster?

One day, he vanished without a trace.



```
Fun="61.000000"  
Name="Radic"  
Love="1.000000"  
Time="523695.000000"  
Kills="0.000000"
```

It's not what I want it to be.

```
Fun="621.000000"  
Name="Radic"  
Love="1.000000"  
Time="523695.000000"  
Kills="0.000000"
```

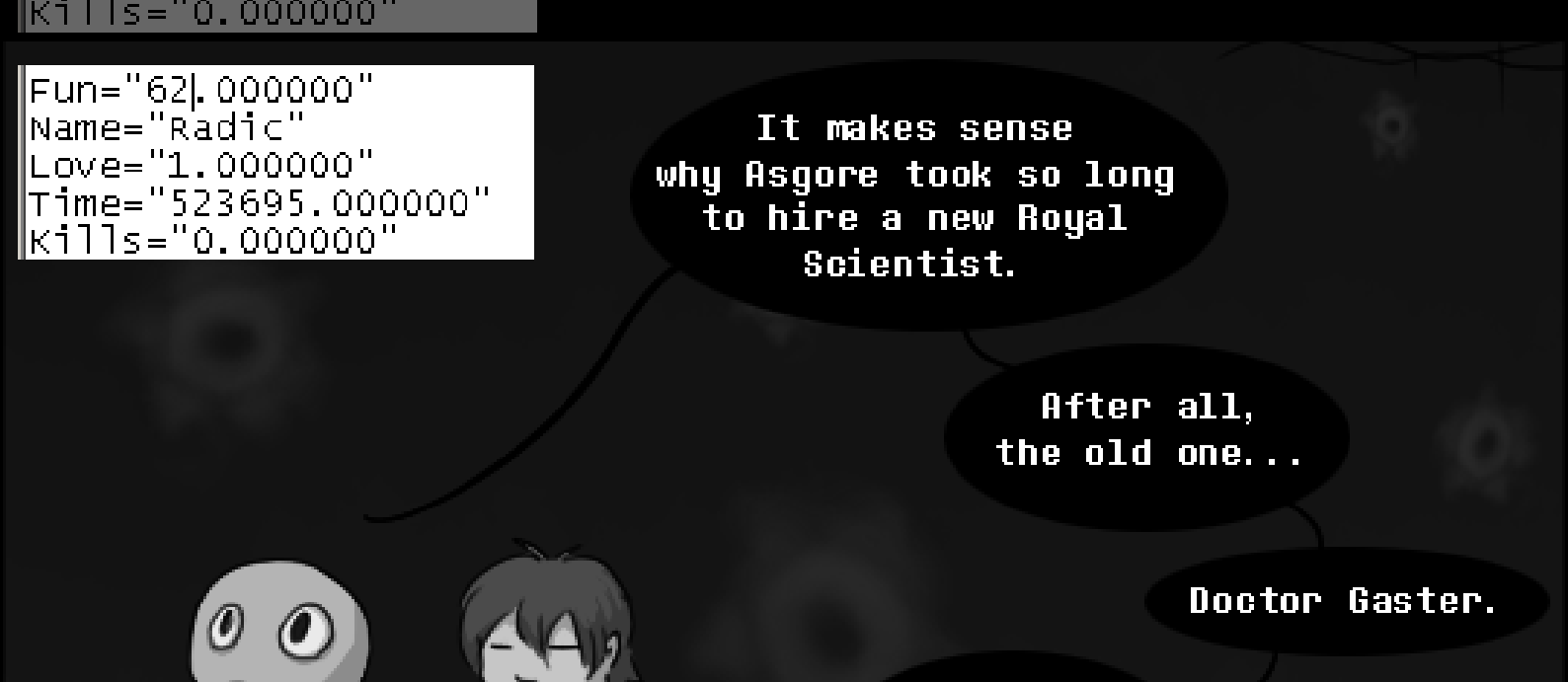
It makes sense why Asgore took so long to hire a new Royal Scientist.

After all, the old one...

Doctor Gaster.

What an act to follow!

They say he created the Core.



It's the same as it was back then. Nothing's changed.

```
Fun="61.000000"  
Name="Radic"  
Love="1.000000"  
Time="523695.000000"  
Kills="0.000000"
```

I haven't changed.

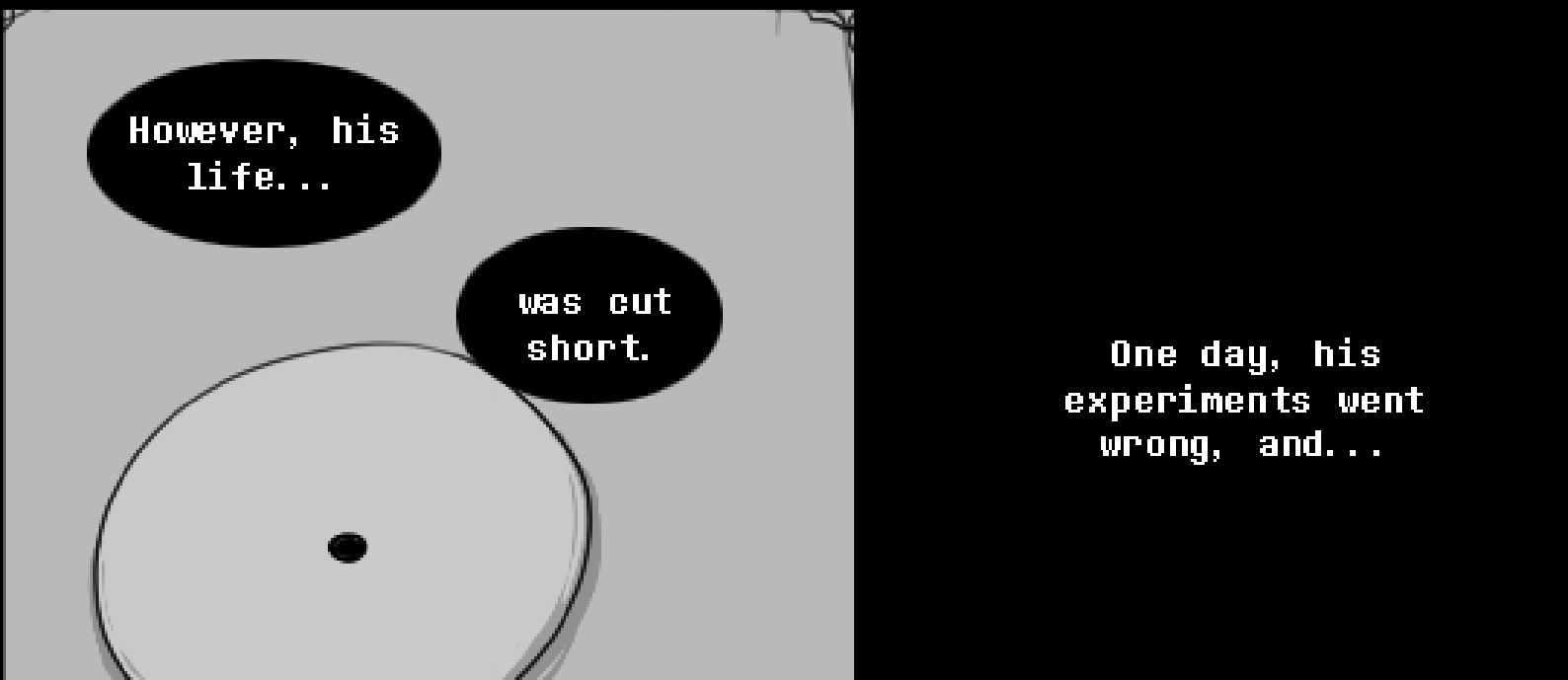
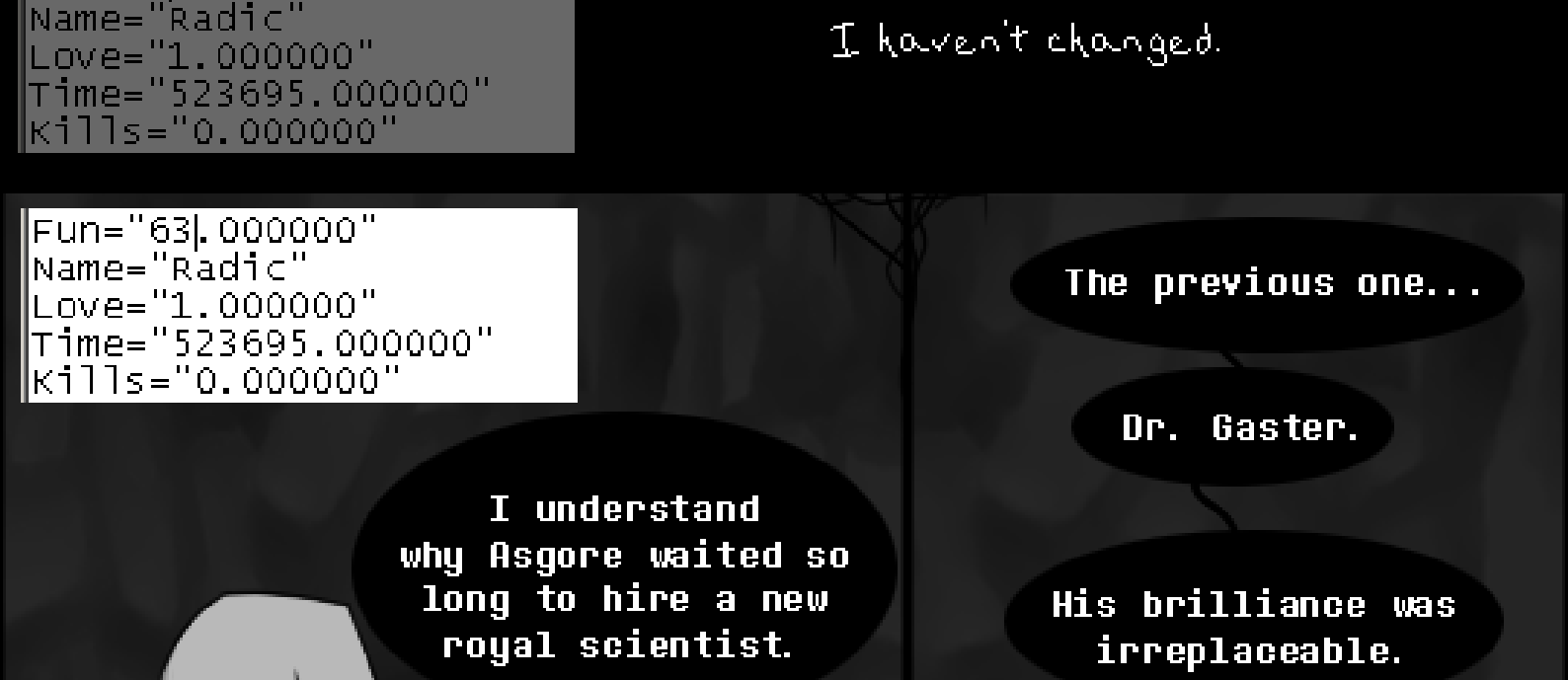
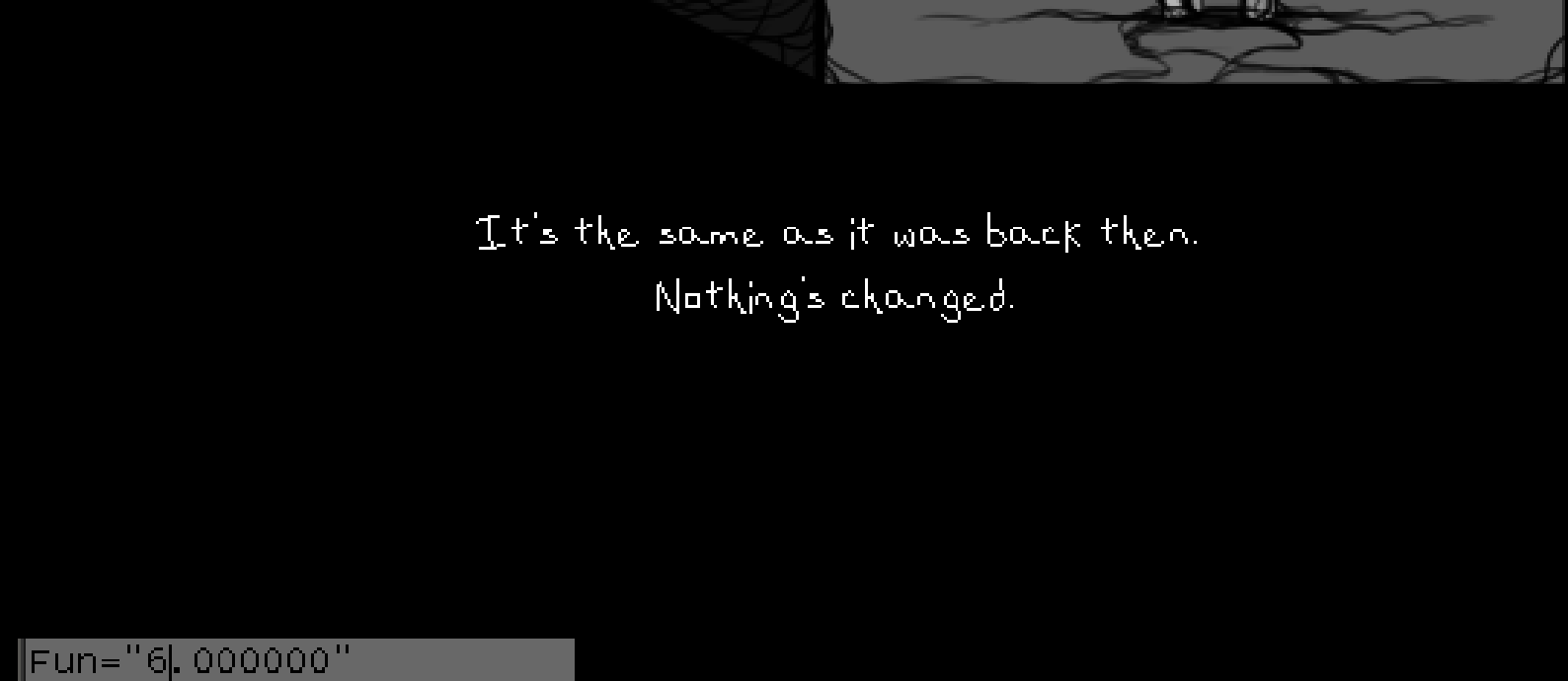
```
Fun="631.000000"  
Name="Radic"  
Love="1.000000"  
Time="523695.000000"  
Kills="0.000000"
```

I understand why Asgore waited so long to hire a new royal scientist.

The previous one...

Dr. Gaster.

His brilliance was irreplaceable.



I have to know.

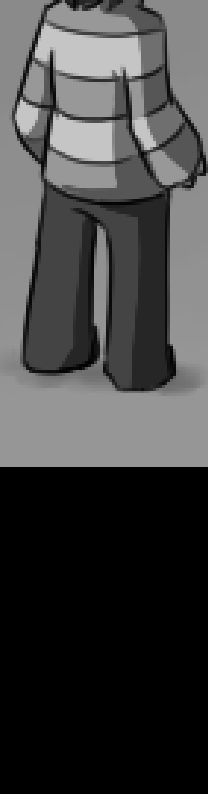
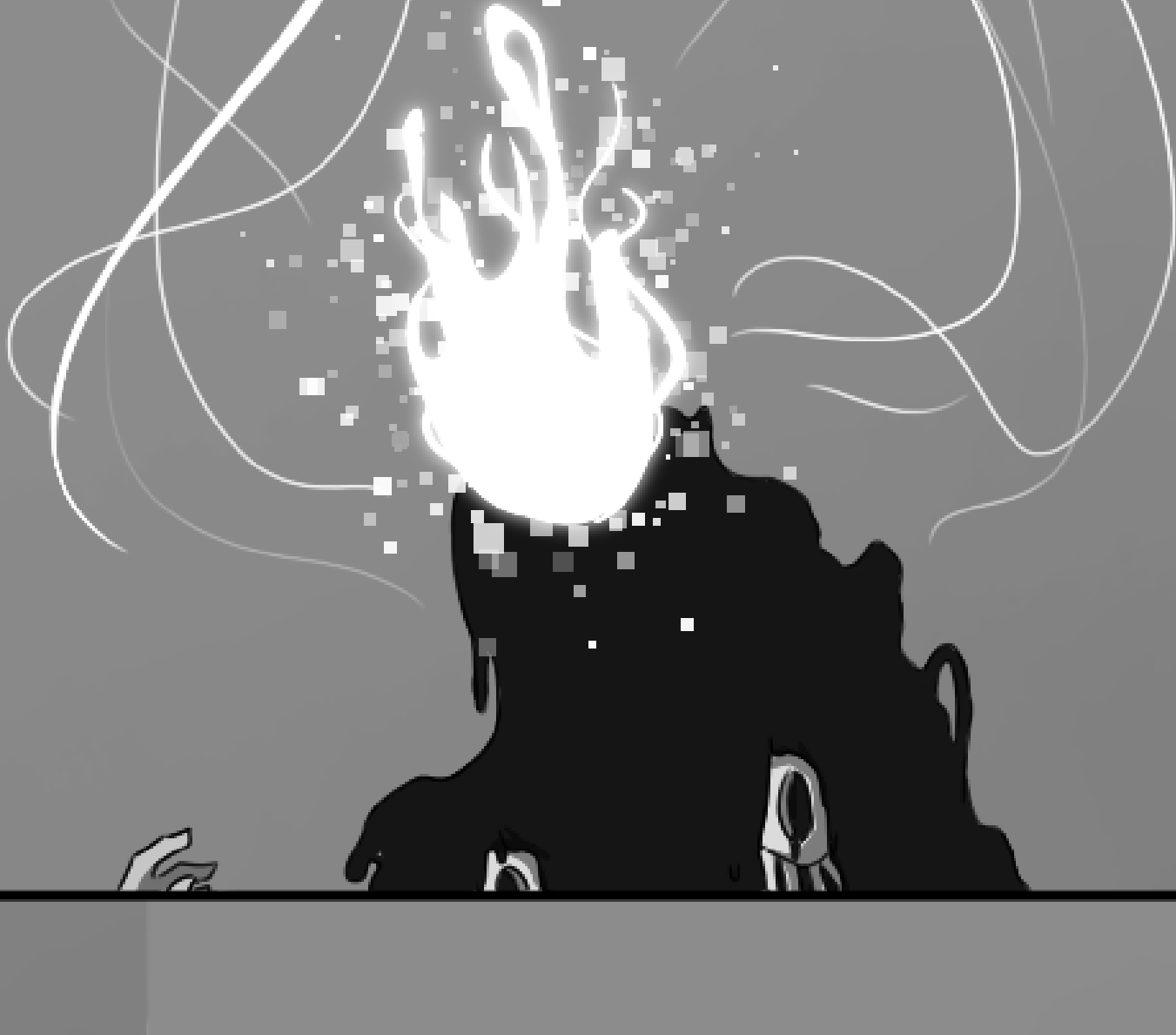
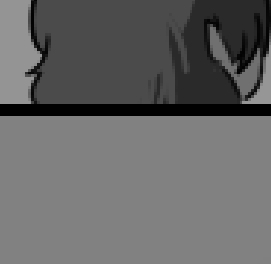
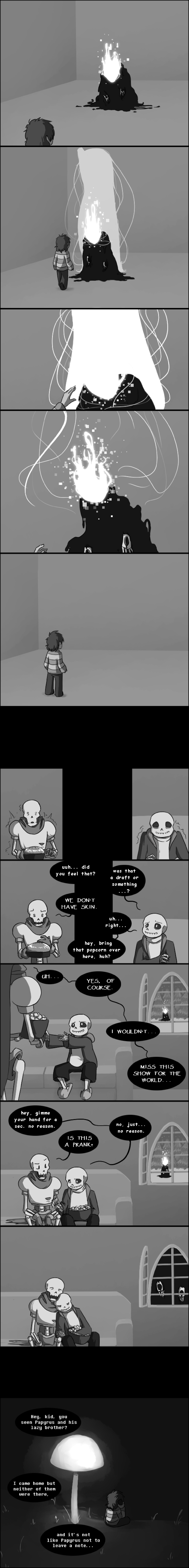
```
Fun="61.000000"  
Name="Radic"  
Love="1.000000"  
Time="523695.000000"  
Kills="0.000000"
```

```
Fun="661.000000"  
Name="Radic"  
Love="1.000000"  
Time="523695.000000"  
Kills="0.000000"
```

Even knowing that it probably won't lead to something good.



I have to know.



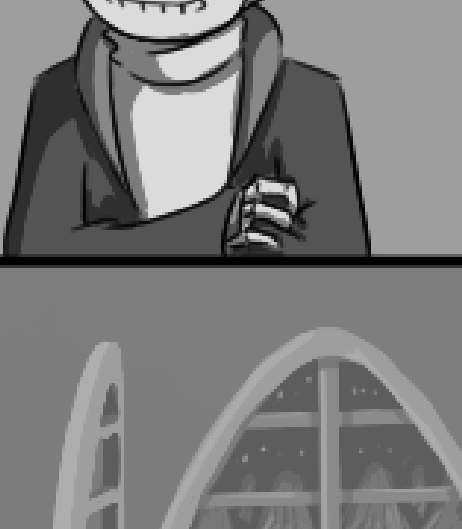
uuh... did you feel that?

was that a draft or something ...?

WE DON'T HAVE SKIN.

uh... right...

hey, bring that popcorn over here, huh?



uh...

YES, OF COURSE.

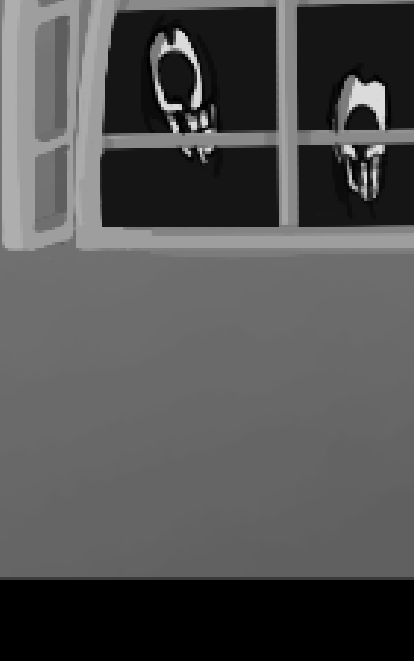
I WOULDN'T...

MISS THIS SHOW FOR THE WORLD...

hey, gimme your hand for a sec. no reason.

IS THIS A PRANK?

no, just... no reason.



Hey, kid, you seen Papyrus and his lazy brother?

I came home but neither of them were there.

and it's not like Papyrus not to leave a note...

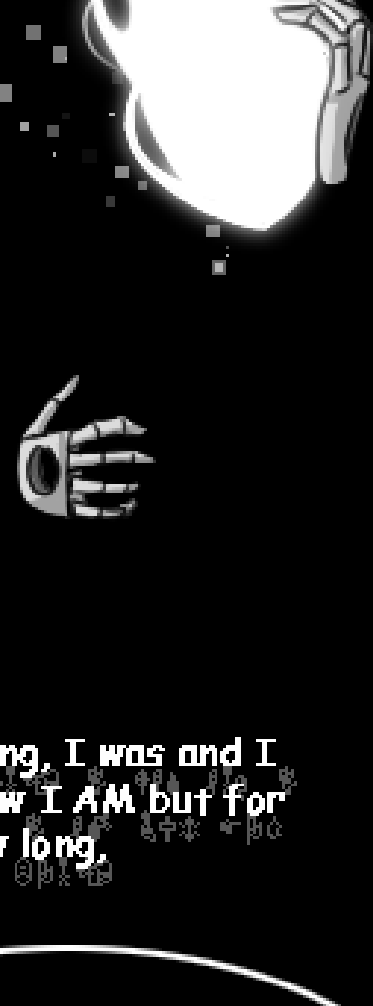


I can't I can't I can't
I can't do that I can't be that I can't do that again
I can't go back I can't I can't there has to
be some way.

I MEAN, HE
HAS TO BE, RIGHT? HE
HAS A CIPHER!

there has to be
some kind of permanence,
an anchor or a solid
form of reality

i don't
know...



he doesn't look like
any of the skeletons
that were in the
book.

If I'm existing, I was and I
wasn't but now I AM but for
how long.

BUT WHAT ELSE
COULD HE BE? ONLY
SKELETONS CAN HAVE
A CIPHER, RIGHT?

AND IT'S
OUR CIPHER
TOO!

there has to
be a persistence,
a factor and an
underlying
consistency.

i don't know...

these are thin threads but they
have to be strengthened.

HEY! HEY,
STRANGE MONSTER!
ARE YOU OUR DAD?
OR OUR MOM MAYBE?
HELLO?

there has to be some way to
reinforce what was broken,
what shouldn't be...

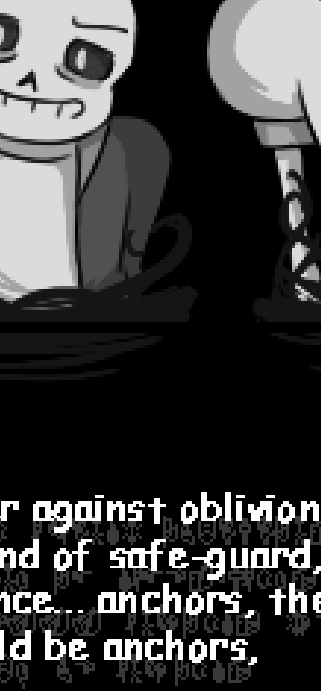
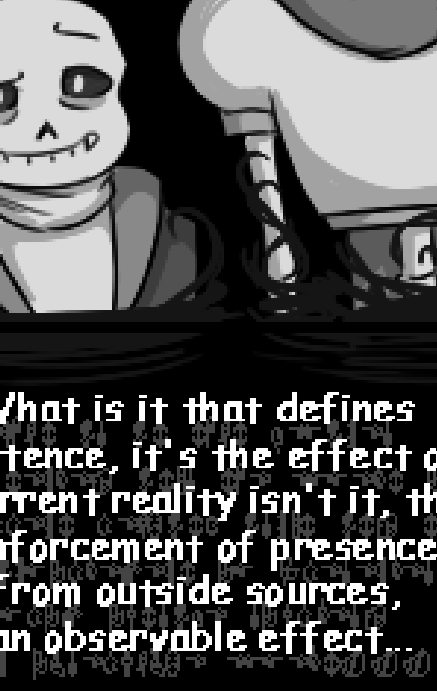
hey? buddy?

EXCUSE ME!
HELLO! I'M SAYING
SOMETHING TO
YOU!



I have to identify what
it is, what is the common
factor, what are the
points?

I have to find it before- before it happens, before they snap and
it's gone and things fall apart. I can't go back I can't go back I can't I
CAN'T. I have to find some way to remain and become and BE again, to keep
this, there has to be a way to KEEP this

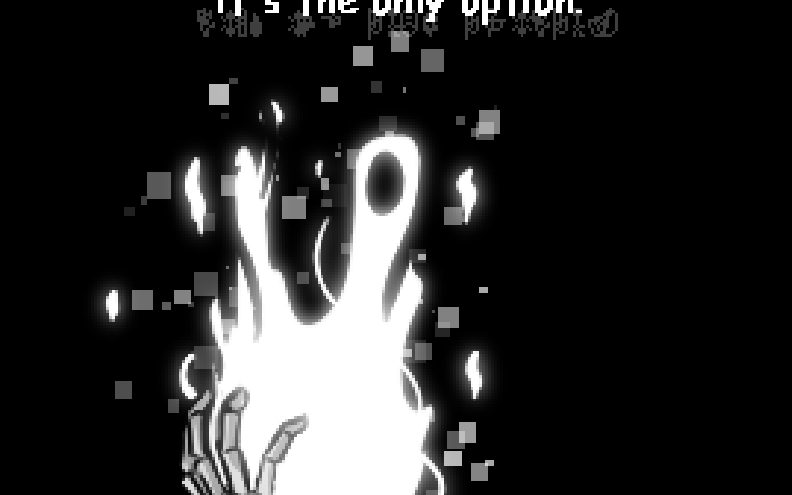


man, do you
think he can
even hear us?
maybe he's
deaf or
somethin.

HE
DOESN'T
REALLY
SEEM TO BE
LISTENING,
THAT'S
TRUE.

HOW DO YOU TALK
TO DEAF MONSTERS
AGAIN?

maybe he
could read us if
he turned around.
hey pal, you want
to turn around
for us?



What is it that defines
existence, it's the effect on
a current reality isn't it, the
reinforcement of presences
from outside sources,
an observable effect.

a barrier against oblivion,
some kind of safe-guard,
reassurance... anchors, they
could be anchors.

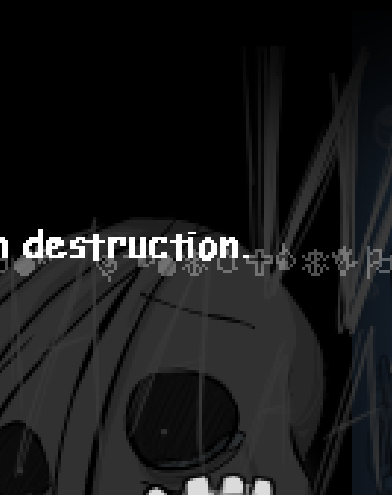


they
could keep something
from there here, and
maybe that'd be enough,
it has to be enough, I can't
go back, I can't, I
can't...



UH, WHERE
DO YOU NOT WANT
TO GO BACK TO? DO YOU NEED
SOME HELP? MAYBE WE CAN
HELP YOU! WHAT'S
WRONG?

No options, no options, I can't
go back and there's no turning back,
it's the only option.



Only one choice,
only one choice, no turning back.
No turning back. Gather all
data for the presentation,
mark every point in
order.

UH, I AM, NORMALLY
VERY IN FAVOR OF
PETTING,
BUT, THIS IS A KIND OF
PETTING SITUATION I WAS
NOT PREPARED FOR?

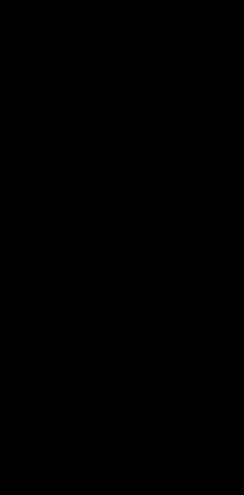
everything
you can hold,
and...

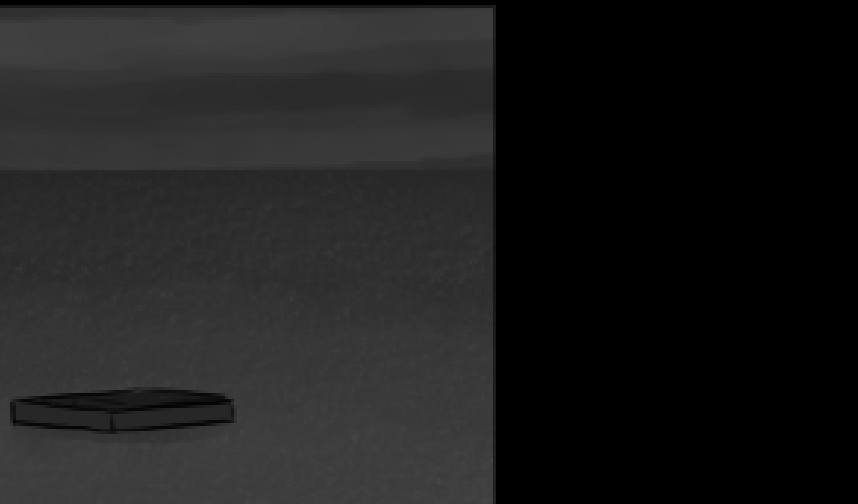
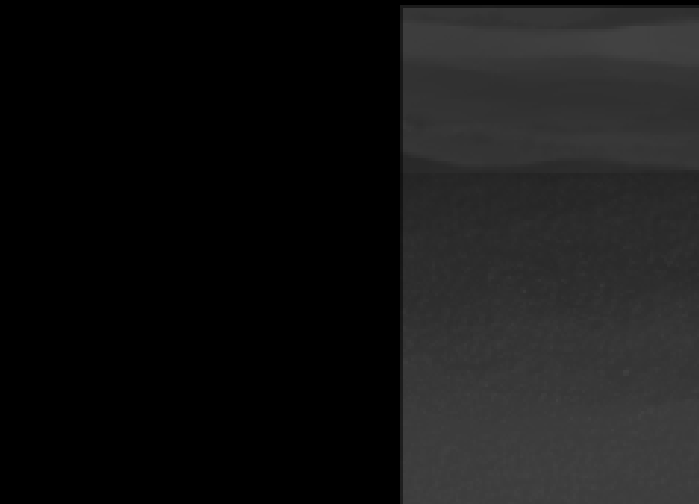
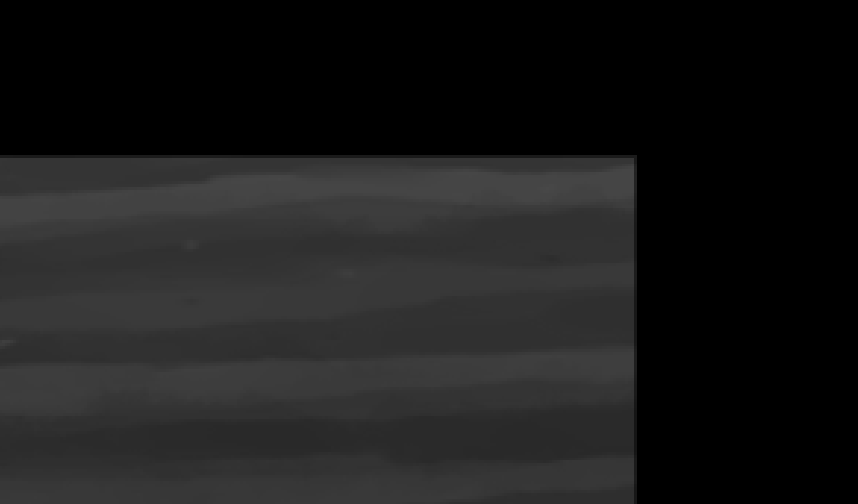
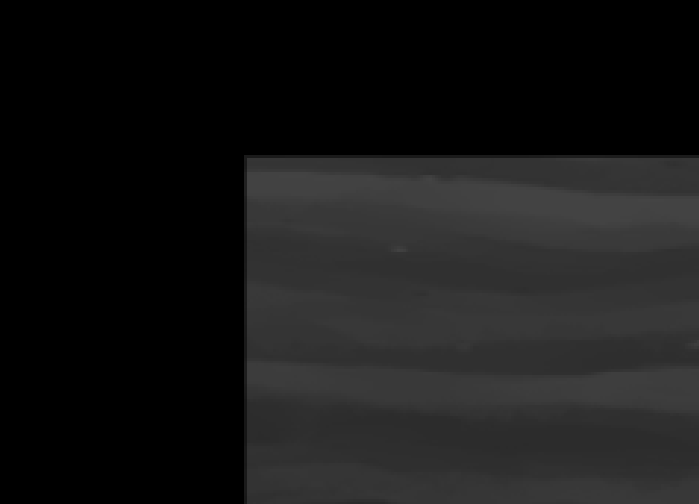
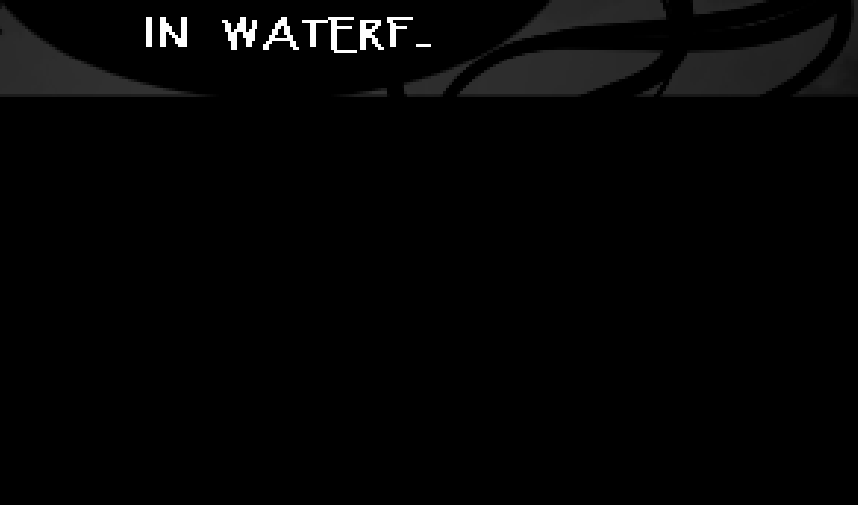
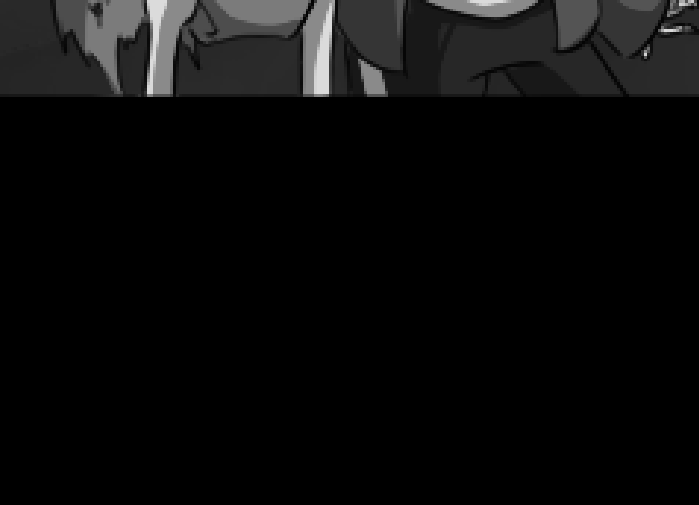


UH, WHO
ARE YOU BY
THE WA-

uuuhh

UH, WHO
ARE YOU BY
THE WA-







ugh, why isn't this working, it worked before-

STOP, STOP, JUST LET ME TALK TO HIM! I CAN FIX THIS!

It's starting to solidify... calcify... god, to be able to *think* again, to be able to be in one place and one time, to experience anything other than...

LOOK, I KNOW YOU'RE PROBABLY UPSET ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED THE LAST TIME WE SAW YOU BUT, I REALLY THINK IF WE ALL CALM DOWN AND TALK THIS OUT LIKE VERY REASONABLE SKELETONS, WE CAN ALL WORK EVERYTHING OUT AND NO ONE WILL HAVE TO GET MURDERED OR EXPLODED OR EXPERIMENTED ON, OKAY? I WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT THERE'S DEFINITELY NO REASON FOR ANYONE TO GET EXPERIMENTED ON AGAIN! NONE AT ALL!! JUST SO WE'RE ON THE SAME PAGE HERE!!



you seem real intent on it just bein the three of us here, after all.

why you even here, old man? why aren't you dead?



it better be for a conversation.

last i checked, being pushed into lava has a pretty high mortality rate.

The lava in the Core isn't normal lava

THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S PRETTY COLORS.

k, that's a start. want to elaborate on that a little?

i'm not going to be okay with that.

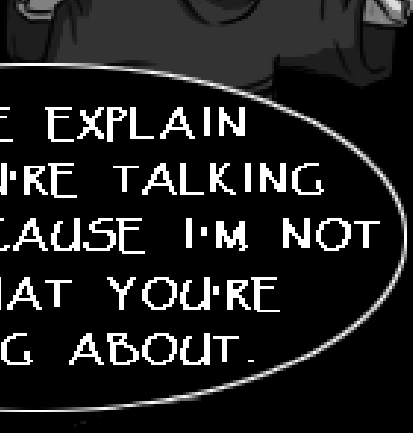
maybe tell us what exactly you're doin here?



cause if you're thinkin of us goin back to how things used to be, well...

YEAH, I ALSO DEFINITELY DON'T WANT TO DO THAT! LET'S NOT DO THAT, OKAY.

I didn't consider this... I didn't consider it as a possible side-effect of how it functions, although, perhaps that's due to its very nature. God, there's so much... it's all coming back, there's so much of it...



DO YOU WANT SOME CONVERSATION ADVICE? I'VE LEARNED A LOT ABOUT HAVING GOOD CONVERSATIONS WITH PEOPLE!

MAYBE EXPLAIN WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT? BECAUSE I'M NOT SURE WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.



not gonna shoot lasers into our eyes again, are you? you really come back to life just to do more of that?

kinda lame.

I remembered you two, my memories relating to you two were much clearer... that would follow with the physical and magical connection. As one thing crystallizes, so do the things around it, until it works all the way through...

ARE YOU NOT LISTENING? I'M STILL NOT SURE WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!



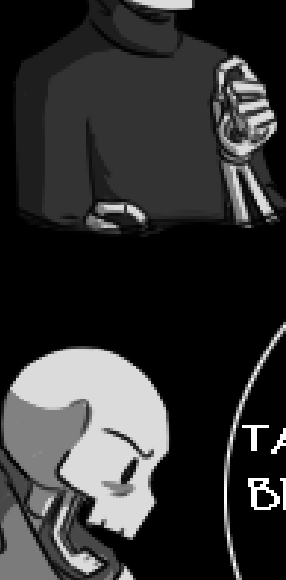
The uncollapsed quantum state over the Core's mass of magic... it could be that when one falls in, they dissolve and become added to the uncollapsed state, unbound by causality...

getting erased from the past and the future at the same time, right?

uh-huh

ive been doing some reading since you been gone.

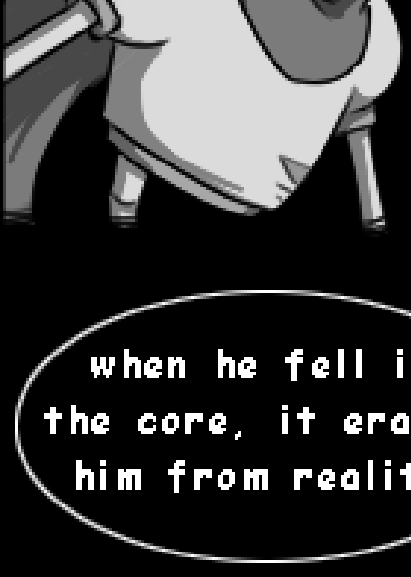
we've both been doin a lot of things, actually.



what were YOU doing?



I'M STILL NOT SURE WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!! NOT BECAUSE I DON'T GET IT, THOUGH! YOU BOTH NEED TO SPEAK MORE CLEARLY!



when he fell in the core, it erased him from reality.

not hard enough though, apparently, since he's still here. guess he just likes torturing us that much.

gotta say, old man, i'm kinda over that now. maybe get a new hobby.



YOU DIDN'T REALLY COME BACK TO TORTURE US AGAIN, DID YOU? BECAUSE THAT! IS VERY NOT NECESSARY! DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU NEEDED HELP?

THAT YOU DIDN'T WANT TO GO BACK SOMEWHERE? LET'S TALK ABOUT THAT AND NOT ABOUT SAWING PEOPLE'S HEADS OFF, OR BREAKING THEIR ARMS, OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT!

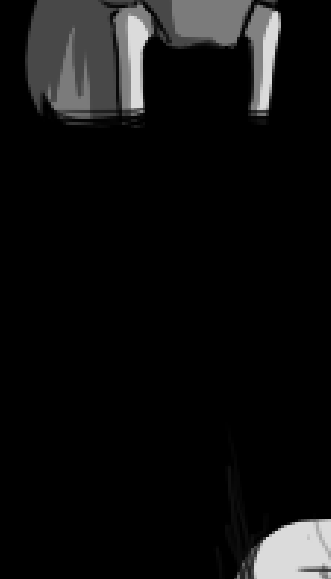


what are you running from? you escape from hell or somethin? maybe you should go back there.

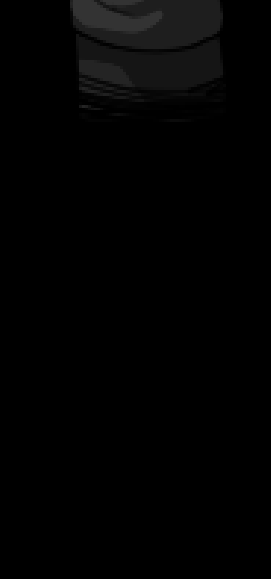
i'm not super jazzed about all this, papyrus.

i am *not* going back. you hear me? i am not going back there, and you're not takin papyrus there either.

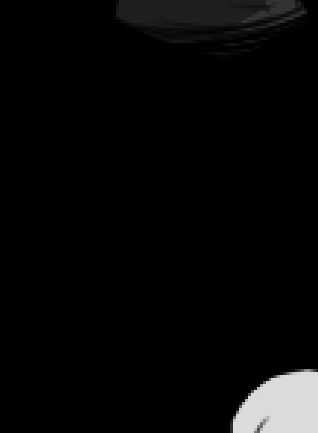
it's over. doesn't matter if you came back from hell to try and do it again, it's not happening. i'm not going to let that happen.



SANS, YOU'RE NOT HELPING.

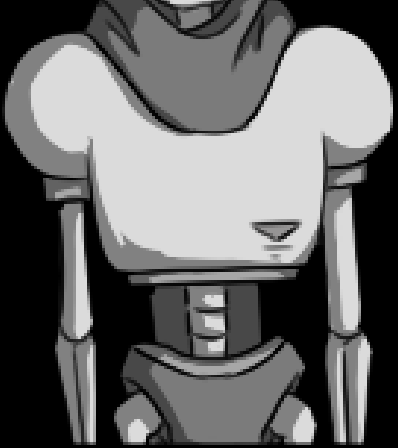


...Sans?



Papyrus...?

Where did you get those names...?



OH, WE GAVE THEM TO EACH OTHER WHEN WE FIGURED OUT WHAT OUR REAL FONTS WERE.

WE LOOKED IT UP IN THE SKELETON BOOK.



My book...? You found my book...?

How much of me was left...? Was it not just in you two?



My book survived...? But, how...?



What else was there...?

WAIT, YOU WROTE THAT BOOK? IT DIDN'T HAVE AN AUTHOR.

that makes sense. who else coulda wrote it?

Where did you find it?

Was it in the lab?



...What happened...? It's not clear...

It's not clear if there's no sense of linear time, then there's no way to discern when something begins or ends... there's no clarity, it doesn't make sense, even if you observe.



Thousands of moments all overlaid at once, a fractured lens that shows you nothing...

how to even begin to sift...?



OH, IT WASN'T IN THE LAB, THAT WAS EMPTY.

all your torture machines blipped out of existence with you, apparently.



can't say that seems like a big loss.

YEAH, WE READ THE BOOK WHEN WE WERE WITH ASGORE. HE WANTED US TO HAVE REAL NAMES, INSTEAD OF...

YOU KNOW.



Asgore...?

You were with...?



yeah, he found us after i offed you.

HE WAS REALLY NICE!



HE WAS ALWAYS REALLY NICE TO US.



God, of course he was...

of course he was.



I didn't think...

of course he would, he.



did he...



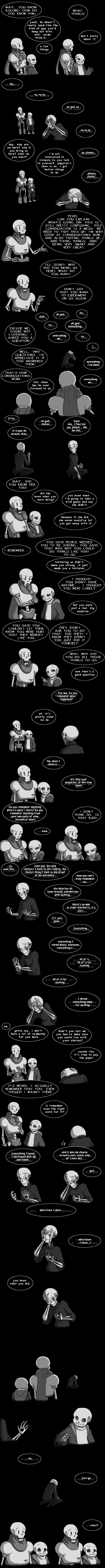
Did he remember me?



you got erased from reality.



what do you think?







...so, all of it was to break the barrier, huh? all of it?

No, not all of it.

As I said... I was unspeakably cruel to you both.

I don't have any excuses.

I made those choices, and now you are the ones who have to live with them.

THAT'S WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHY?

DID WE DO SOMETHING WRONG?

No.

... really? not even once?

DID WE MAKE YOU ANGRY?

No.

I know you tried many times, but no, not really.

YOU WERE AFRAID OF US?

Nothing I did to either of you was motivated by anger. Fear, at times, that you'd overpower me, but not anger.

You nearly killed me, remember?

Do you realize how easily you could have used blue magic to pull me into the beams at any time?

Do you realize how easily you could have used blue magic to pull me into the beams at any time?

That's why I...

BUT I SAVED YOU.

You did. I still don't understand why.

After everything I did...

after everything you did.

The suffering I caused both of you, simply because I was too stubborn and selfish to face my mistakes... all I've ever done is hurt you both.

do you regret any of it?

I knew it was wrong but I did it anyway.

All of it, from the very beginning.

NO... THAT'S NOT ALL YOU'VE EVER DONE.

WELL, THAT'S MOSTLY WHAT YOU'VE DONE, BUT IT'S NOT ALL! SOMETIMES... SOMETIMES YOU WERE...

YOU SAVED OUR LIVES ONCE.

no...

no, it was twice.

i...

when my head...

you did that? it was you?

why didn't you tell us?

...

YOU...

I REMEMBER IT TOO NOW! YOU HEALED HIM...

YOU TOLD ME YOU COULDN'T HEAL ANYMORE, YOU SAID IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE CHOICES YOU MADE...

YOU SAVED OUR LIVES...

YOU SAID IT WAS BECAUSE YOU'D PUT SO MUCH WORK INTO US.

BUT... THAT WASN'T TRUE, WAS IT?

THAT WASN'T WHAT MADE YOU DO IT, WAS IT?

YOU CARED ABOUT US...

DIDN'T YOU?

that's all he ever wanted, you know.

DID YOU EVER REALLY LOVE US?

(PSSST, YOU SHOULD SAY YES, NO PRESSURE OR ANY THING BUT DEFINITELY SAY YES)

...That's a difficult question to answer.

It doesn't matter how you feel if your actions don't match. Your feelings only affect yourself. Your acts affect others, and that's what really matters. That's quantifiable.

No one who loved either of you would have done any of the cruel things I did to you. It doesn't matter how I may have felt about it. My actions are unconscionable and unforgivable. That's all.

... IF THAT WERE THE CASE, IT WOULDN'T BE A DIFFICULT QUESTION TO ANSWER.

There's nothing I can say. I've given you your explanation. That's all I can offer.

not exactly, pal.

you still haven't apologized.

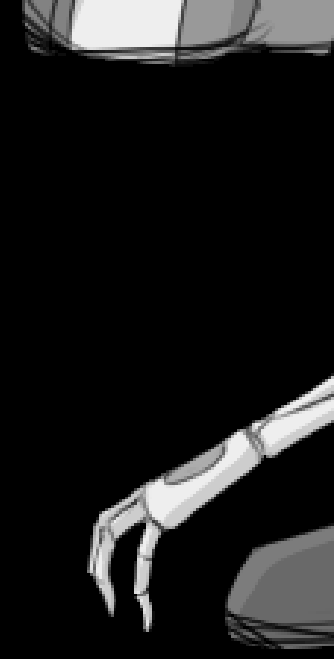


What good would an apology do either of you?

sure, but it'd be nice to hear, you know?

YEAH, I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER HEARD YOU APOLOGIZE BEFORE. COME TO THINK OF IT, MAYBE YOU'LL BE REALLY GOOD AT IT! YOU DON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU TRY, RIGHT?

It won't undo the damage I've caused to you both, or the agonies I put you through.



There's no apology that could make up for that.



I'm sorry to both of you.



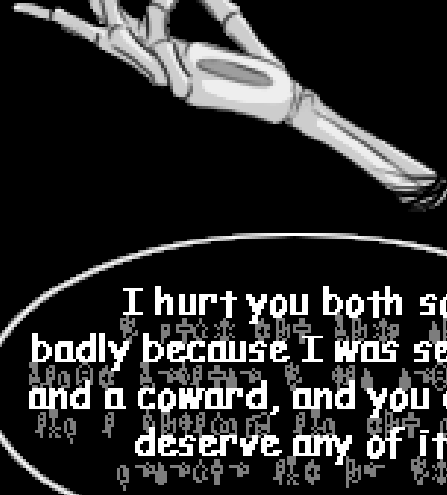
I'm sorry for every cruel thing I did to you, and every cruel thing I said to you.

my NAME.

is sans.

I'm sorry.

Especially you, I-S.



I hurt you both so badly because I was selfish, and a coward, and you didn't deserve any of it.

For every way that I hurt you both, all the pain I caused you,

everything I took from you.



I'm sorry.

I'm so sorry.

...HUH, THAT DID FEEL NICE TO HEAR! YOU WERE RIGHT, SANS.



eh... i think you got more out of it than i did, but still.

There. I've given you what little I have to give. There's nothing more you, or anyone, needs from me. Now you can leave. There's nothing else for you here.

BUT WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?

What else can I do? There's no place for me out there, much less any that I deserve.



There's no more running now. I have no right to run. I was disoriented. I just wanted the suffering to stop. I understand now.

didn't you say you were runnin from someone? that that's why you grabbed us and gave us all those memories in the first place? to get away from something?

WHAT SUFFERING IS SOMEONE HURTING YOU?



You don't have to worry about such things anymore.



I've given you what you asked for.



All that's left is what I brought on myself.

OH! LOOK OUT, LOOK OUT, IT'S THAT THING AGAIN!

AH, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, HASN'T IT?



OR PERHAPS IT'S BEEN NO TIME AT ALL. HOW OLD YOU BOTH LOOK!

YOU STAY AWAY FROM US!! I'M NOT SCARED OF YOU!!

OH, THERE'S NO NEED TO GET UPSET.



I'M NOT HERE FOR YOU.

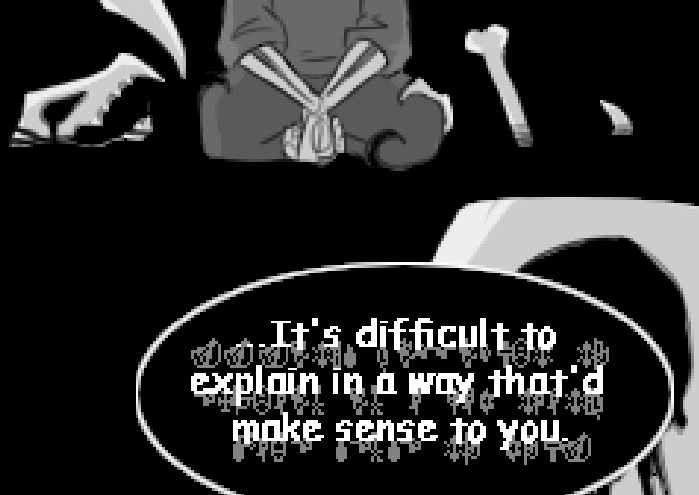
It's not here for you.

here for you...?

wait, is that what you were running from?

is that what was hurting you?

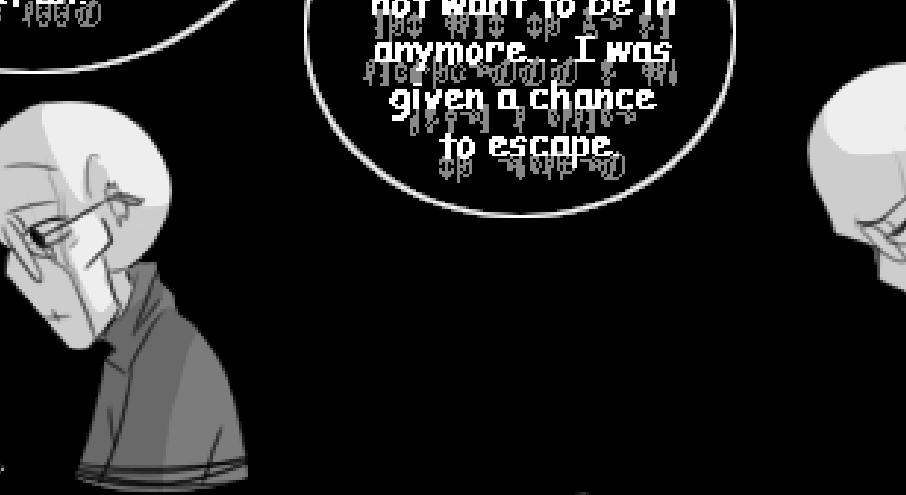
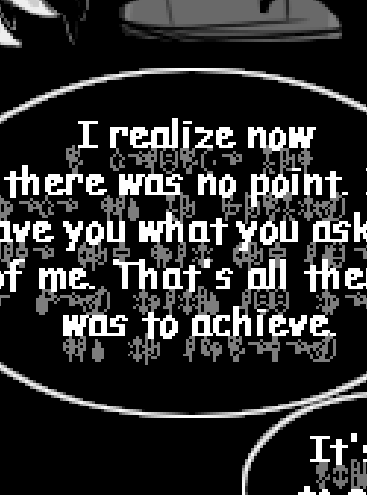
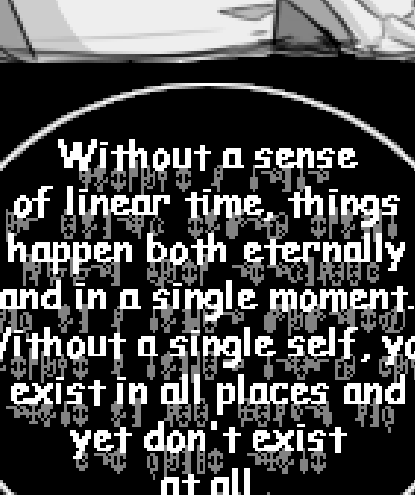
It's difficult to explain in a way that'd make sense to you.



Without a sense of linear time, things happen both eternally and in a single moment. Without a single self, you exist in all places and yet don't exist at all.

I was in a state that I did not want to be in anymore. I was given a chance to escape.

It's time to go back.



IF YOU INSIST.

NO! LEAVE HIM ALONE!

Please, that's enough.



BUT...

...what are you?



WHAT A CUTE QUESTION.

WHAT DO YOU THINK, DR. W.D. GASTER?



I do have
a theory.

Imagine that you
had the ability to teleport
anyone to you from any
time or space.

Now, imagine if
you tried to teleport a
you from before you
were made.

And instead of it
refusing to complete the operation,
it pulled anything it could find, and
then filled the gaps with
something else.

so back then you
connected to something
that didn't exist
yet?

what was
it?

was it...

you?

right
now?

I don't know.
Perhaps in part, I'm
not sure.

... WAIT,
DOESN'T THAT
MEAN YOU'RE
HURTING
YOURSELF?

OH, IS THAT
WHAT IT MEANS,
DR. W.D. GASTER?

...are you really
going to just disappear
into whatever this is and
torture yourself for
all eternity?

that's how
you really
want this
to end?

that doesn't
mean it's exactly
constructive,
you know?

Constructive? To what end?
I'm already basically dead. Worse
than dead, even. The world has gone on
without me, and is better for it.
You've both grown up without
me, and are better for it.

NONE OF IT
NEEDED YOU, AND
NONE OF IT MISSED
YOU WHEN YOU
WERE GONE.

What little
purpose I had is
fulfilled. None of it
needed me, and none of
it missed me when
I was gone.

WE MISSED
YOU.

...You didn't know
what it was you were missing.
Whatever it was you were
picturing was better
than the truth.

I THINK I
DO KNOW WHAT IT
WAS, ACTUALLY.

LOOK, I KNOW
YOU'RE UPSET ABOUT
HOW EVERYTHING TURNED OUT,
BUT HAVE YOU CONSIDERED
THAT MAYBE YOU DON'T
HAVE TO STAY
HERE?

MAYBE
THERE'S SOME
THING ELSE YOU
CAN DO!

There is
nothing else.

OKAY,
BUT, MAYBE
THERE IS?

I
DON'T THINK
YOU'VE REALLY
CONSIDERED ALL
THE POSSIBILITIES
HERE.

There is nothing.
There's no point.

OKAY, THAT
ATTITUDE
ISN'T REALLY
SUPER HELPFUL,
BUT THAT'S
OKAY!

THE GREAT
PAPYRUS CAN HANDLE ALL
THINGS GREAT (ALTHOUGH
NOTHING IS AS GREAT
AS ME) AND SMALL!

INCLUDING
UNHELPFUL
ATTITUDES!

The great
Papyrus...?

THAT'S
RIGHT!

SHINING STAR
OF THE UNDERGROUND,
BELOVED BY ALL,
RESPECTED AND
ADORED! BRIGHTENER
OF DAYS
AND BANISHER
OF PERSNICKETY
MOODS!

You see... all
the better for my
absence.

There's no
place and no
point to
me.

This is where
it ends.

YOU
SEE, THIS
SOUNDS
VERY MUCH
TO ME LIKE
GIVING UP!

AND I
DO NOT
TOLERATE UP
GIVING!

No... no.

You've always
clung to what you
thought you saw in me.
It's time to accept
reality.

that's true,
he never lets
me get away
with it, heh.

WAIT. WAIT!

WHAT
DID I JUST
SAY?

It's time
to let go.

WHERE
ARE YOU
GOING!

oh man.

COME
BACK HERE!

YOU GET
BACK HERE THIS
INSTANT!

there
he goes.

COME
ON, SANS!
WE HAVE TO
CATCH
HIM!

... i don't
think he
wants to be
caught.

I DON'T CARE!
YOU DIDN'T WANT
TO BE A SENTRY
EITHER!

i don't
think this
is the same
thing.

are you
sure about
this?

I HAVE TO
DO THIS, SANS.

I HAVE TO.

...i know.

BUT...

YOU
DON'T, I
GUESS.

...nah.

it's my
job to protect you,
you know?

who knows.
if he challenges
you to a lazy-off,
you'd lose
for sure.

SANS.

... THANKS.

eh. not like
i got anythin
better to do
in here.

COME ON.

I NEVER
MAKE IT IN THE
DREAM, BUT I'M
GOING TO DO
IT THIS
TIME.

I'M
GOING
TO REACH
HIM.

...you got
this, bro.

let's go.

COME
BACK HERE!



Why won't you listen?



10

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alright.

I don't understand...
I don't know if I'll ever
understand you.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO! I
CAN UNDERSTAND ME ENOUGH
FOR THE BOTH OF US!



What?
~~~~~



you heard  
him. keep up,  
huh?

for the record,  
this was papyrus's  
idea.



Yes, I  
figured. What is  
it you intend  
to do?

How do  
you intend to...  
help me?



YOU WANT  
TO GIVE UP,  
AND I'M NOT  
GOING TO LET  
YOU DO  
THAT!

YOU'RE NOT  
DONE YET!

Done with  
what...?

What else is there  
left that I can do?



here's a  
hint, bucko.

the second  
part of "i'm sorry"  
is usually "how can  
i make it up  
to you".

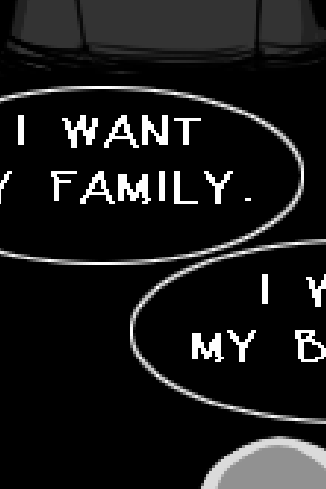
It's impossible  
to make up for what  
I've done to you. After  
everything I did.



thing is, you  
don't get to decide  
that, we do.

I...  
~~~~~

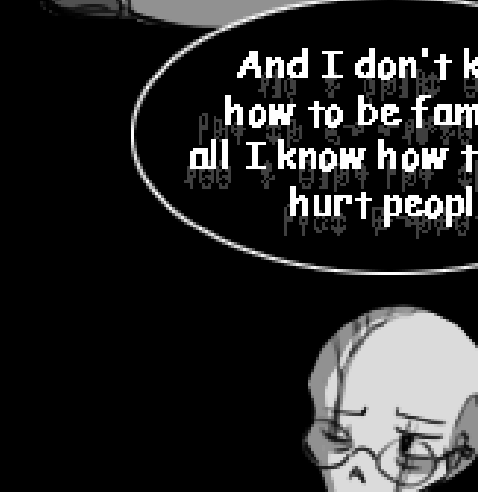
What else
do I have to
give you?



I WANT
MY FAMILY.

I WANT
MY BROTHER.

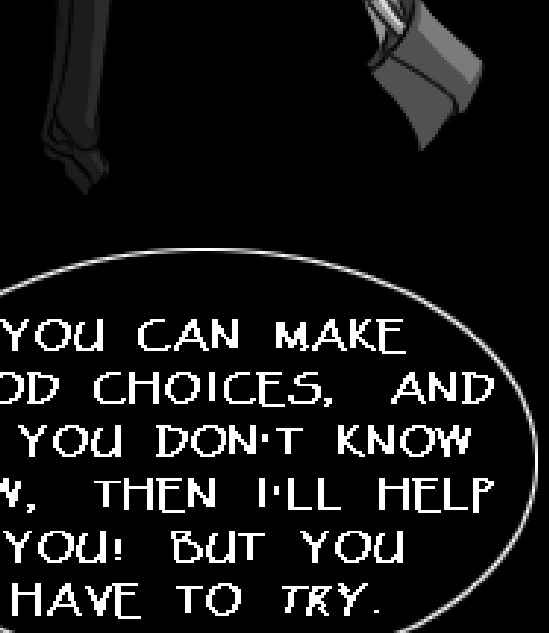
OR... DAD.
OR WHATEVER.



...I can't be your
family. Family wouldn't
do such awful things
to each other.

eh... i
don't know
about that.

And I don't know
how to be family...
all I know how to do is
hurt people.



THAT'S
NOT TRUE
AND YOU KNOW
IT. YOU JUST
WANT IT TO BE
TRUE BECAUSE
IT'S EASY.

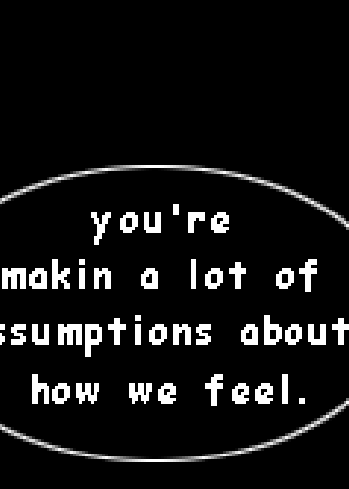


YOU CAN MAKE
GOOD CHOICES, AND
IF YOU DON'T KNOW
HOW, THEN I'LL HELP
YOU! BUT YOU
HAVE TO TRY.

How can I
ever fix what I've
done to you...?



GIVING
UP ISN'T
GOING TO
FIX ANYTHING
YOU DID
WRONG.



All the
scars I've given
you, how am I
supposed to
take those
away?

why don't you
stop feelin sorry for
yourself and let us
tell you, huh?

you're
makin a lot of
assumptions about
how we feel.



maybe listen
to us for a change.
this isn't about
you.

I...
~~~~~

...you're right.  
You're right, I'm  
sorry.



What is  
it you want me  
to do?

I WANT YOU  
TO COME BACK  
WITH US.

I WANT YOU  
TO BE BETTER.

AND I  
KNOW YOU  
CAN BE.



Why do you  
believe so much  
in me?

Why do you  
want me in your life  
so badly?

... I CAN  
SEE YOU.

THE REAL  
YOU.

EVEN WHEN  
YOU CAN'T.

AND I KNOW  
YOU CAN DO GOOD  
THINGS.

I KNOW  
YOU CAN.

AND...

IT'LL MAKE ME  
FEEL BETTER ABOUT  
THE BAD THINGS IF YOU  
START DOING GOOD  
THINGS INSTEAD.

THEN I CAN THINK  
ABOUT THOSE INSTEAD  
OF WHAT YOU DID TO  
US BEFORE.

AND I'D KNOW  
YOU CARED ENOUGH  
ABOUT ME TO  
TRY!

...You have so  
much faith in me.



I don't know  
how you do it.

I'll never  
understand.  
~~~~~

he has faith in
everyone. you know that.
he's always gonna believe
in you, no matter
what.

That's true.

Even now,
that hasn't
changed.

What about
you, Sans?

What do you
want from me?

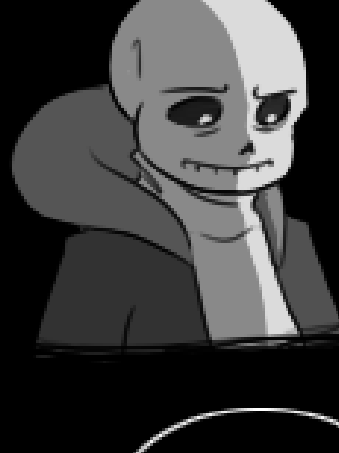
me?



I know what
Papyrus wants.

What do
you want?

...i just want papyrus to be happy. i've always wanted that. and maybe you comin back will do that. i dunno. could be worth a shot, i guess.



Is that all you want?



...yeah, pretty much. that's it.



You haven't changed either, it seems.



...guess not, huh.



SANS, DON'T BE WEIRD.

i'm not being weird.

YOU'RE TOTALLY BEING WEIRD BECAUSE YOU'RE UNCOMFORTABLE!



maybe it's our evil clonedad that's being weird.

SANS! JUST ANSWER THE QUESTION!

i did answer it, remember?

UGH. WE'LL TALK ABOUT THIS LATER, SANS.



Later



so, are you coming with, gaster? are you gonna get tortured for all eternity in here, or are you gonna come with us and try to stop hurting people for once?

YEAH, WHEN WE'RE ALL OUT OF HERE!

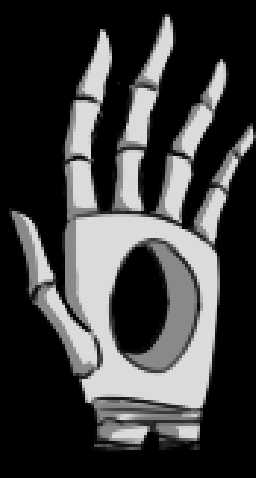


it's your call.

what do you want?



~~~~~



I don't want to hurt anyone anymore.

I



I'm going to try.



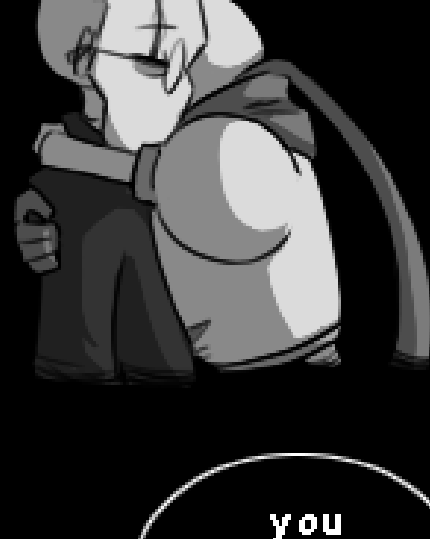
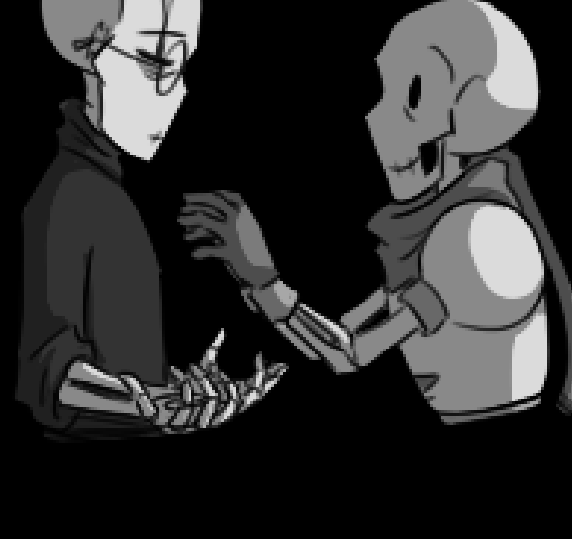
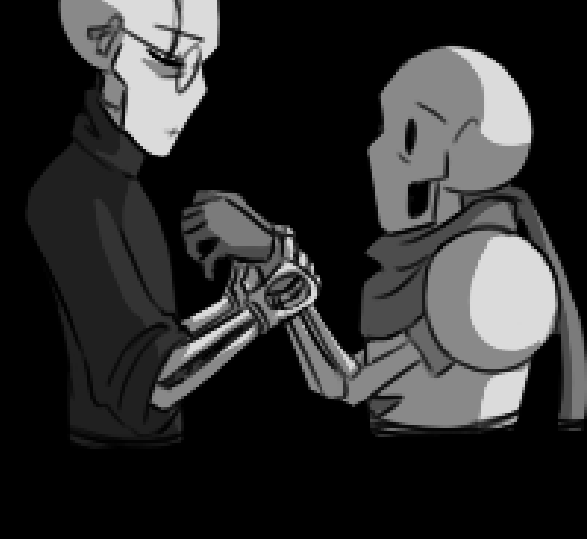
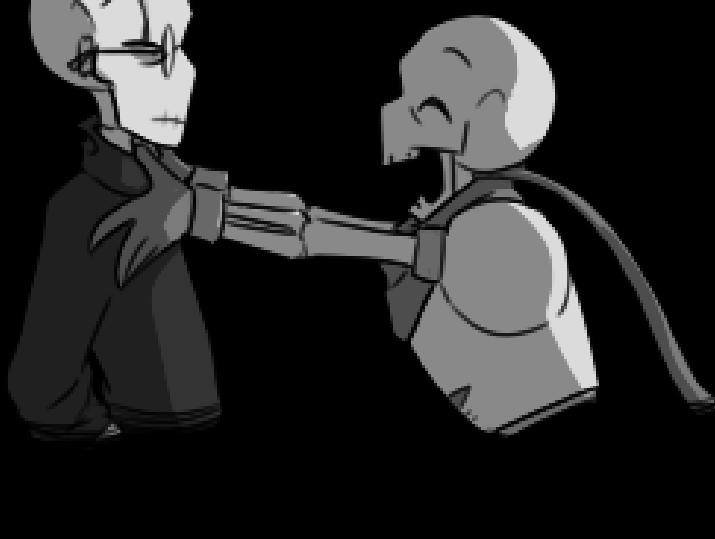
REALLY??

Yes. You're right... if I want to fix what I've done to you, then I have to listen to what you want.



REALLY REALLY??

I don't know if I'll be able to be what you want me to be, but-



you sure about this?





I'M SURE.

I'm  
going to  
try

(sigh)  
alright. give  
me your  
hand.

OH, NOT EVEN  
GOING TO SAY GOODBYE?  
THAT'S A LITTLE RUDE,  
ISNT IT?

YOU LEAVE  
US ALONE!!

AM I DOING  
ANYTHING?

Are you...

going to  
let me leave?

YOU THINK I'M  
WHAT KEPT YOU  
HERE? AND I THOUGHT  
YOU'D GAINED SOME  
PERSPECTIVE.

THESE LITTLE  
DIVERSIONS MEAN  
NOTHING TO ME.

DIDNT YOU SAY  
IT YOURSELF? TIME HAS  
NO MEANING HERE.

YOU WILL NEVER  
LEAVE HERE.

NOT IN A WAY  
THAT MATTERS.

HE'S NEVER  
COMING BACK  
HERE!!

OH IF  
YOU SAY  
SO.

HOW CAN  
I ARGUE WITH  
THAT?

COME ON  
SANS, LET'S  
GO.

okay,  
okay...

gimme  
your hand.

heh.

hehehe.

SANS!!  
OH MY GOD!!  
THIS IS NOT THE TIME  
FOR YOUR CHILDISH  
PRANKS!!

seems like  
the perfect  
time to me.

?

NO IT'S NOT!!  
YOU'VE RUINED THIS  
TOUCHING MOMENT  
FOREVER! I CAN'T  
BELIEVE YOU!!!

DO IT  
RIGHT, SANS!

okay... okay.  
let's see...



Oh, there you two are? You gave us a bit of a fright... are you alright?

yeah, we're fine, don't worry. just took a little field trip out somewhere, you know how it is. didn't mean to worry ya.

Yes yes, that's what I thought.

Oh... excuse me.

Have we met?

Do I know you?

...You did, once.

I'm sorry, I don't understand...

Ah, forgive me. I'm Dr. Alaster.

...As I thought

HE'S OUR DAD! KIND OF!

IN A DEFINITELY OUR DAD KIND OF WAY!

OH, UH, HE GOT LOST! WE ONLY JUST FOUND HIM RIGHT NOW!

Oh, you finally found him! Where were you? Your sons were looking for you...

yeah, i guess something happened and we lost our memories, so we didn't remember where he was.

Do you remember everything now?

...sure, let's go with that.

Did you find anyone else, wherever you were?

No, there was no one else. Only me.

Ah, I'm sorry to hear that... but, at least you're still here.

Your children missed you very much, you know!

Yes... so they've told me.

Where were you, anyway?

...It's difficult to explain.

Does it have something to do with this room, perhaps? I do not recall it being here before...

OH HEY, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

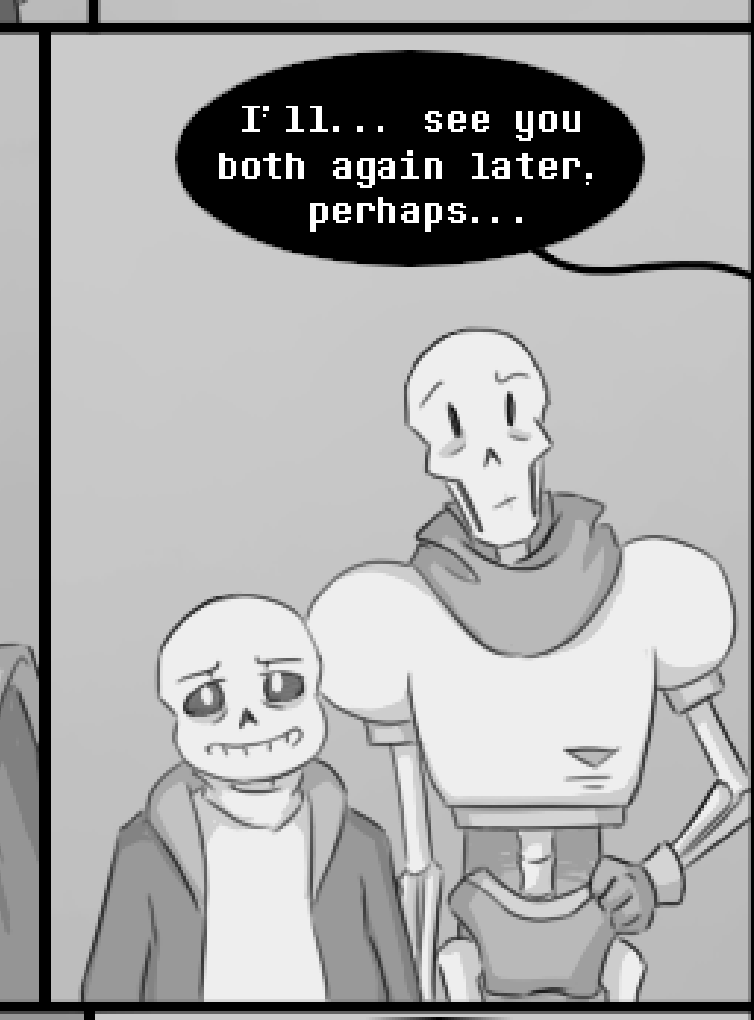
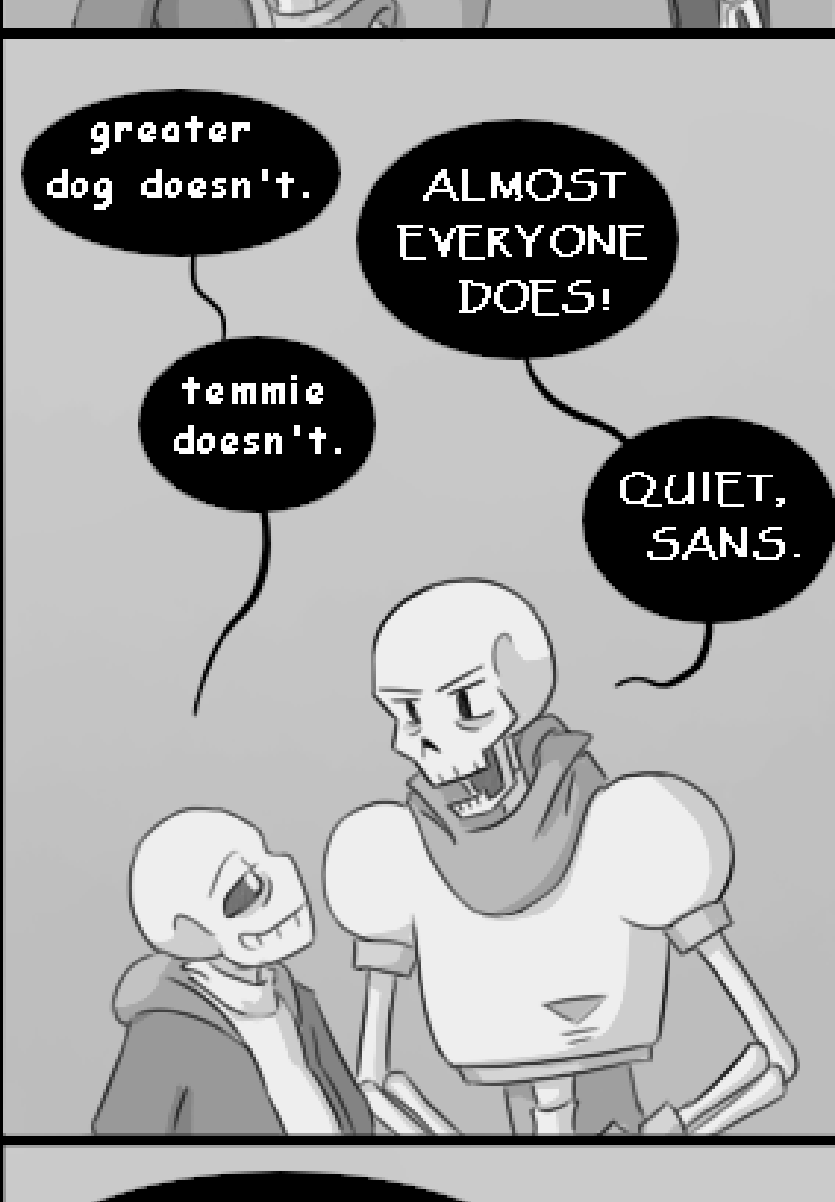
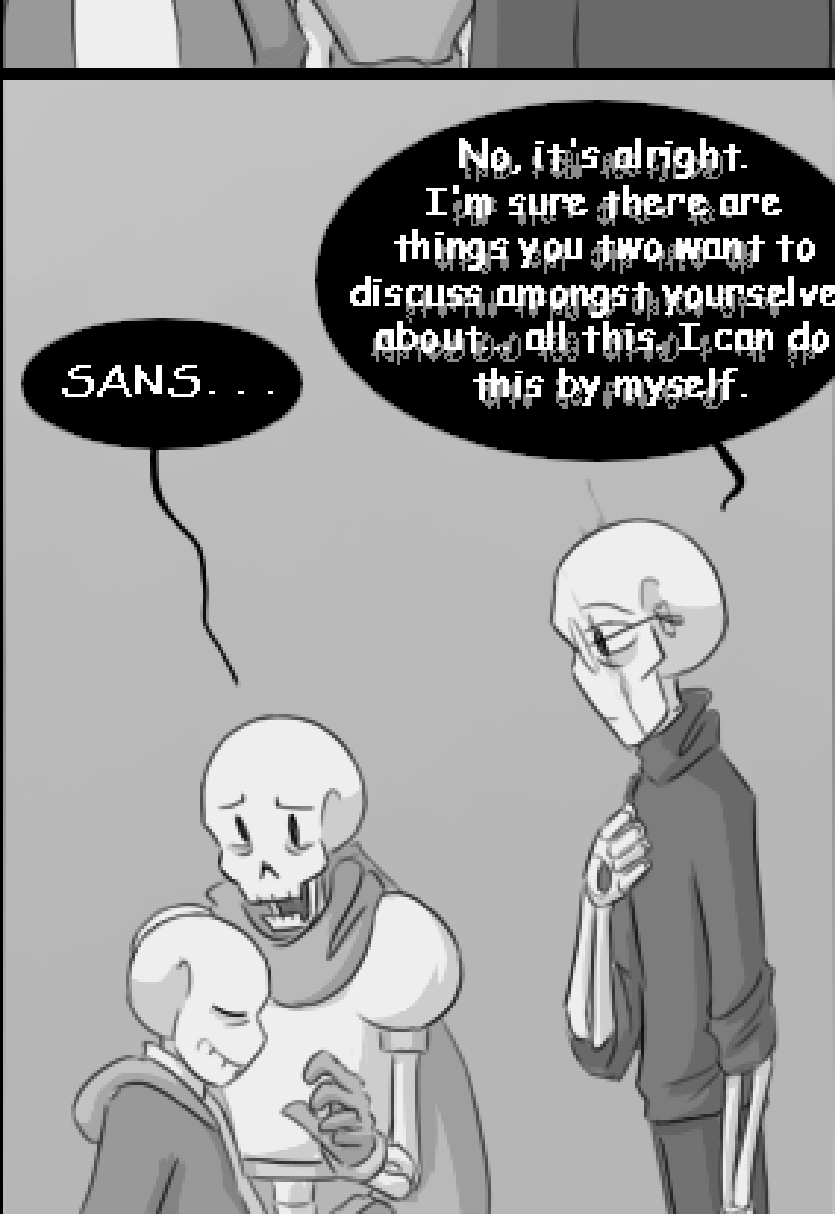
huh.

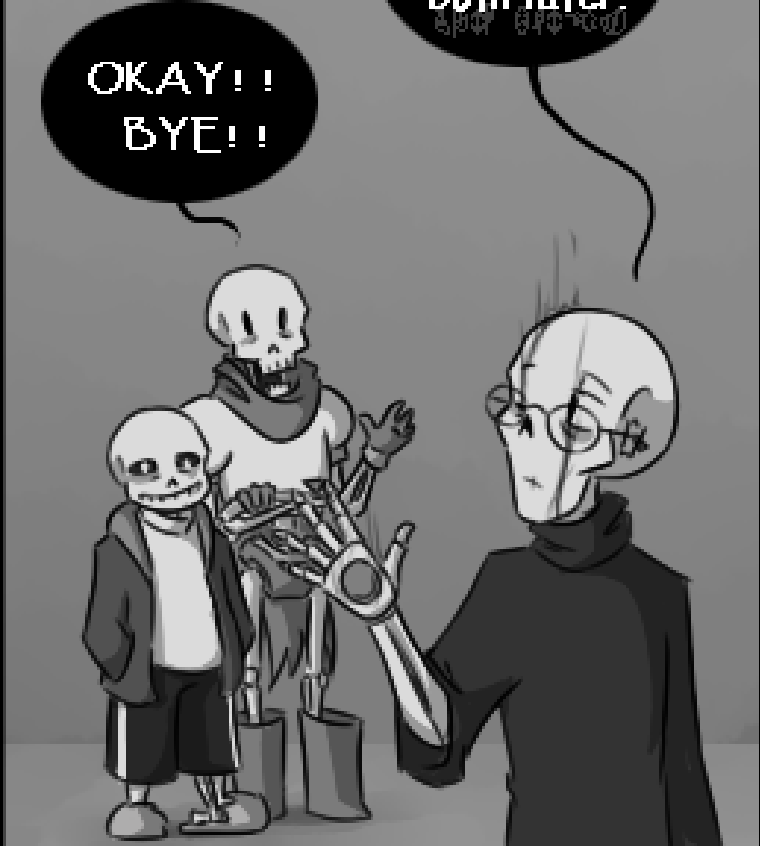
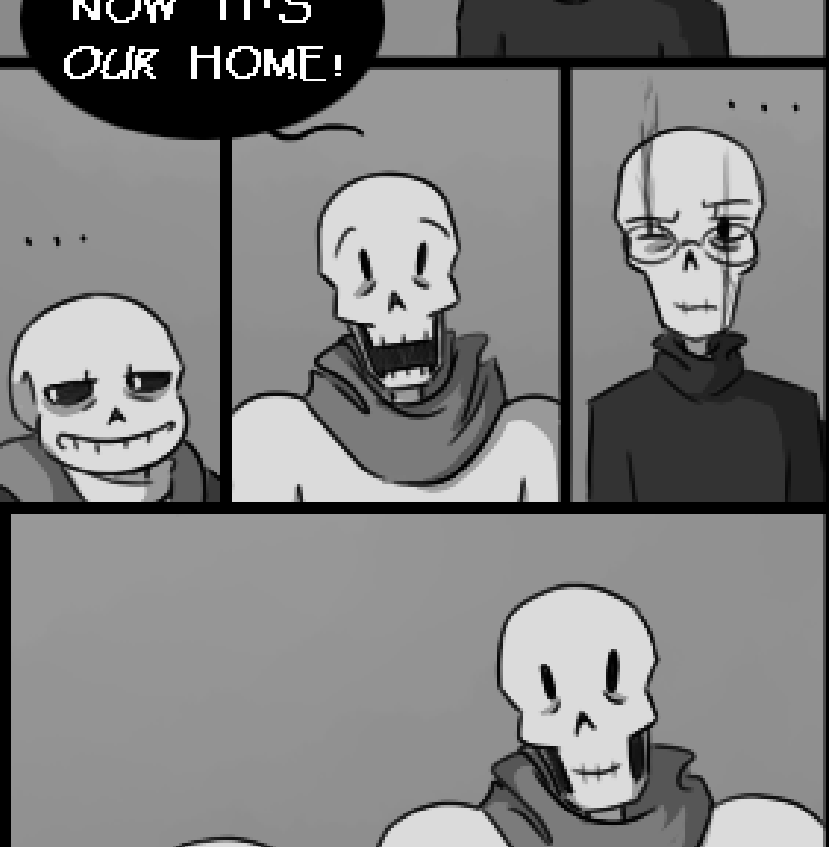
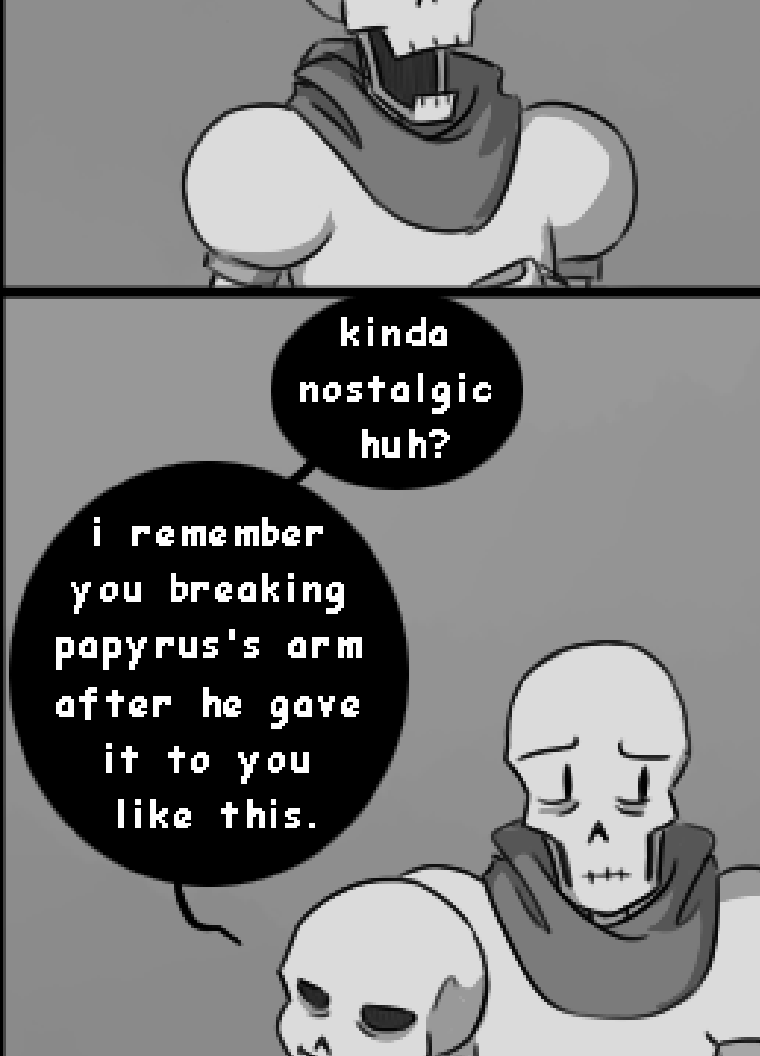
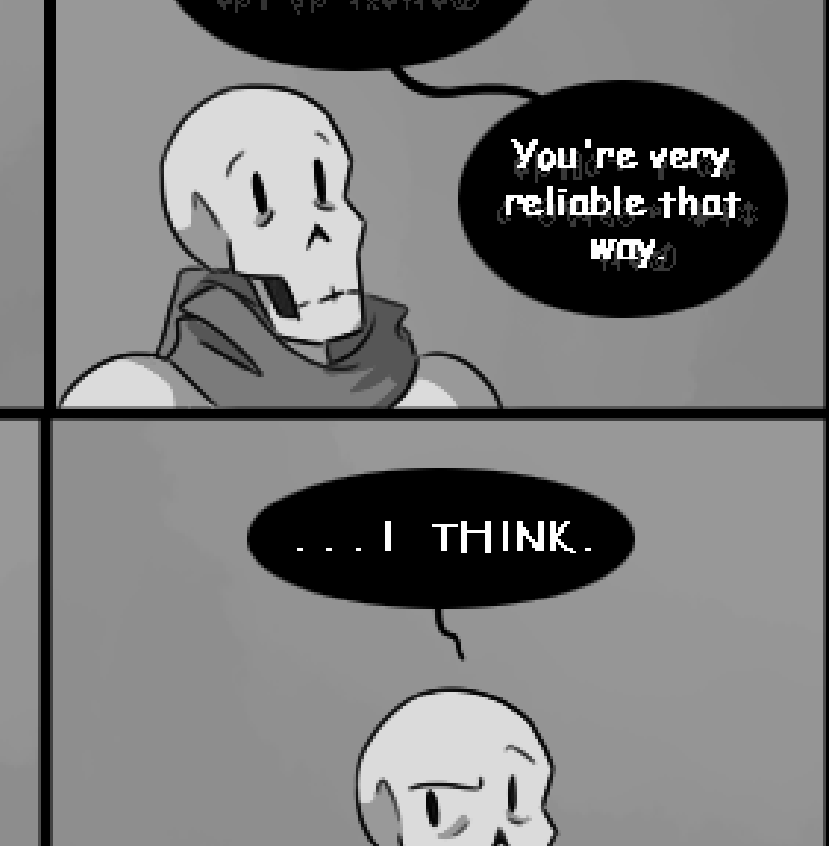
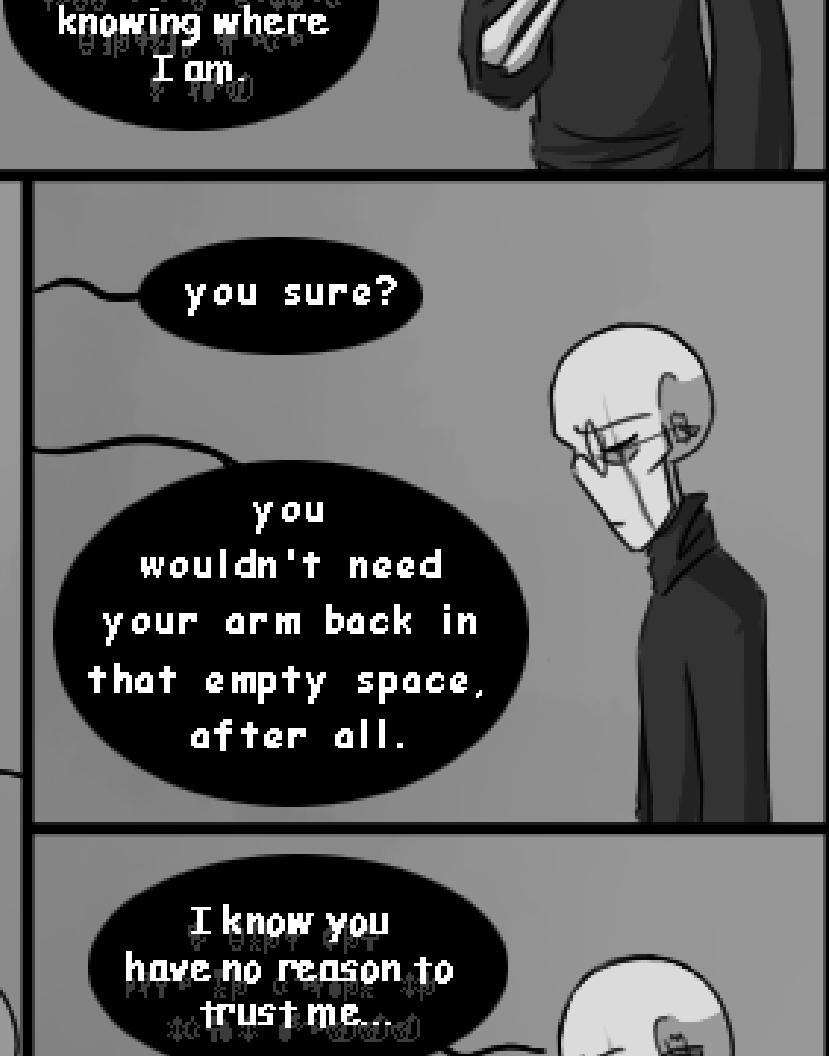
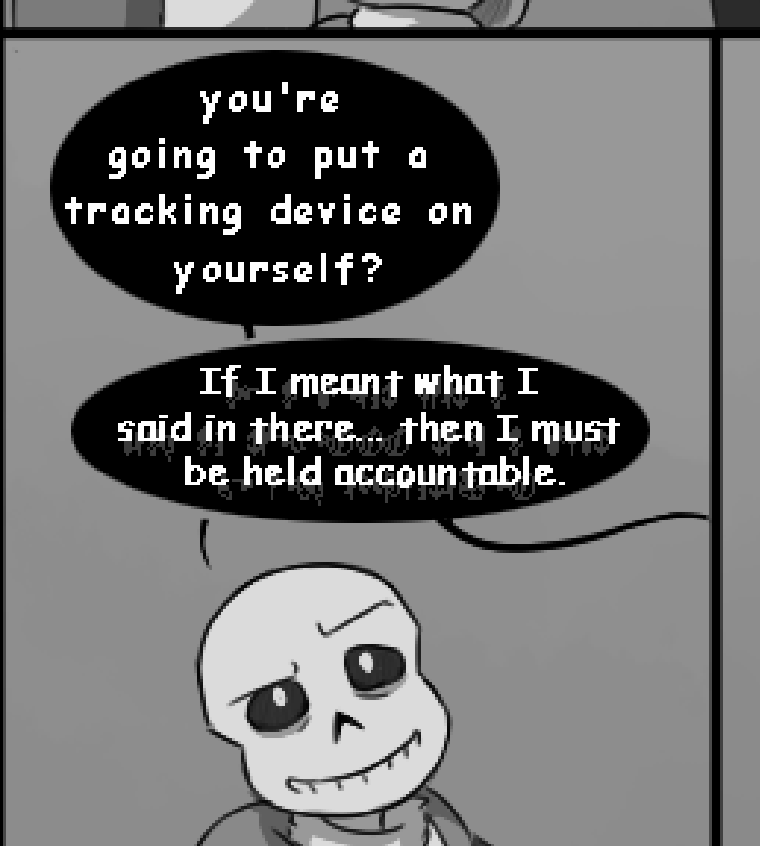
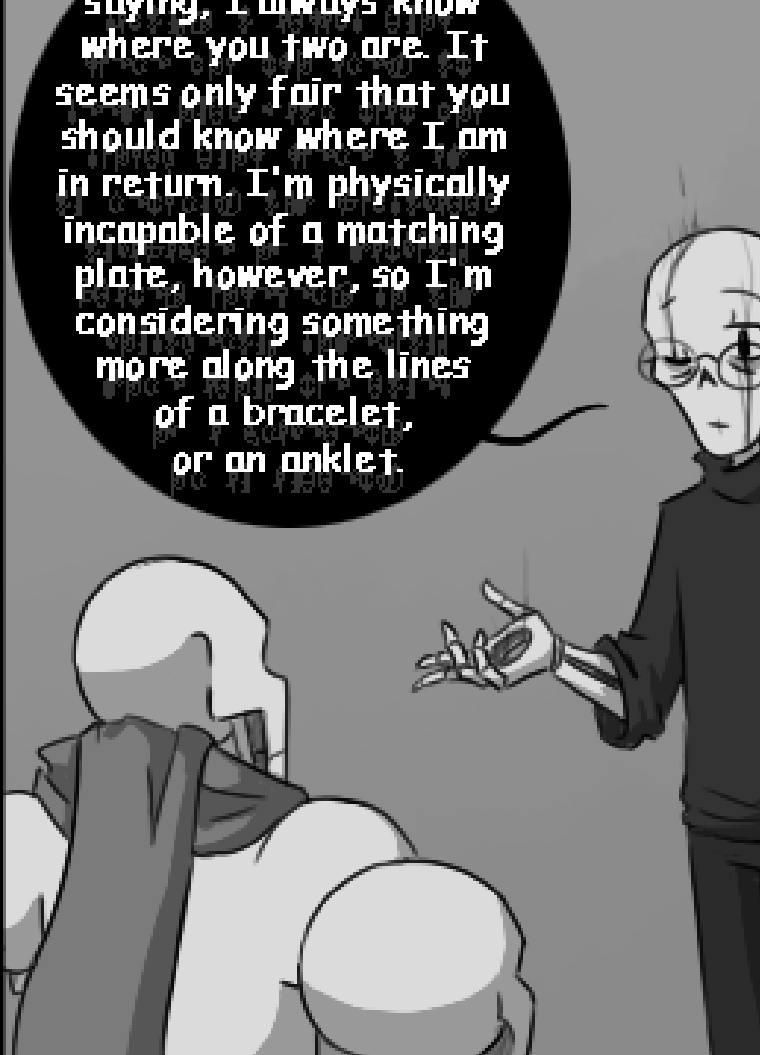
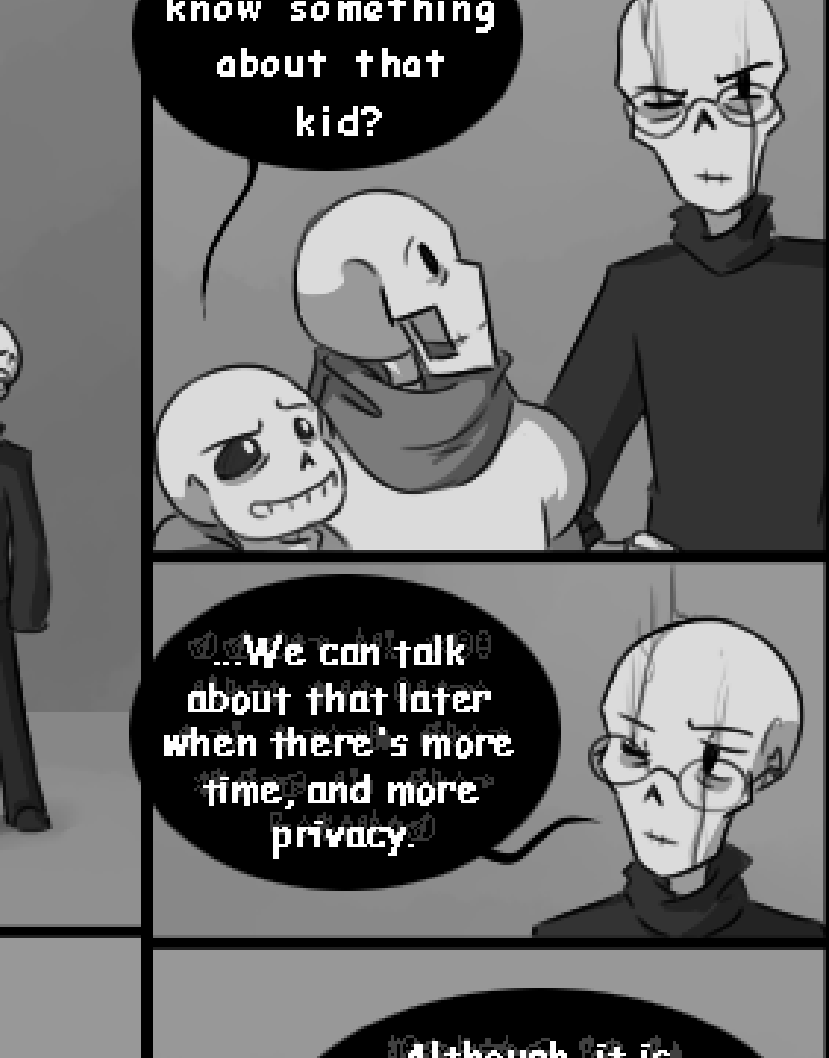
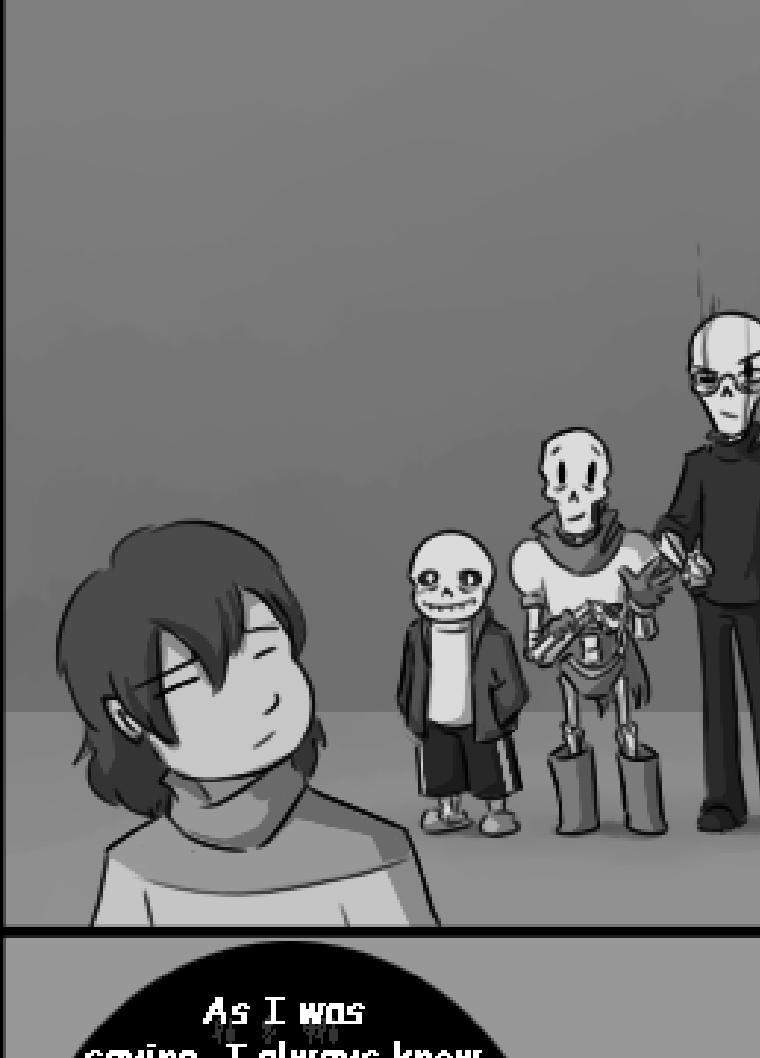
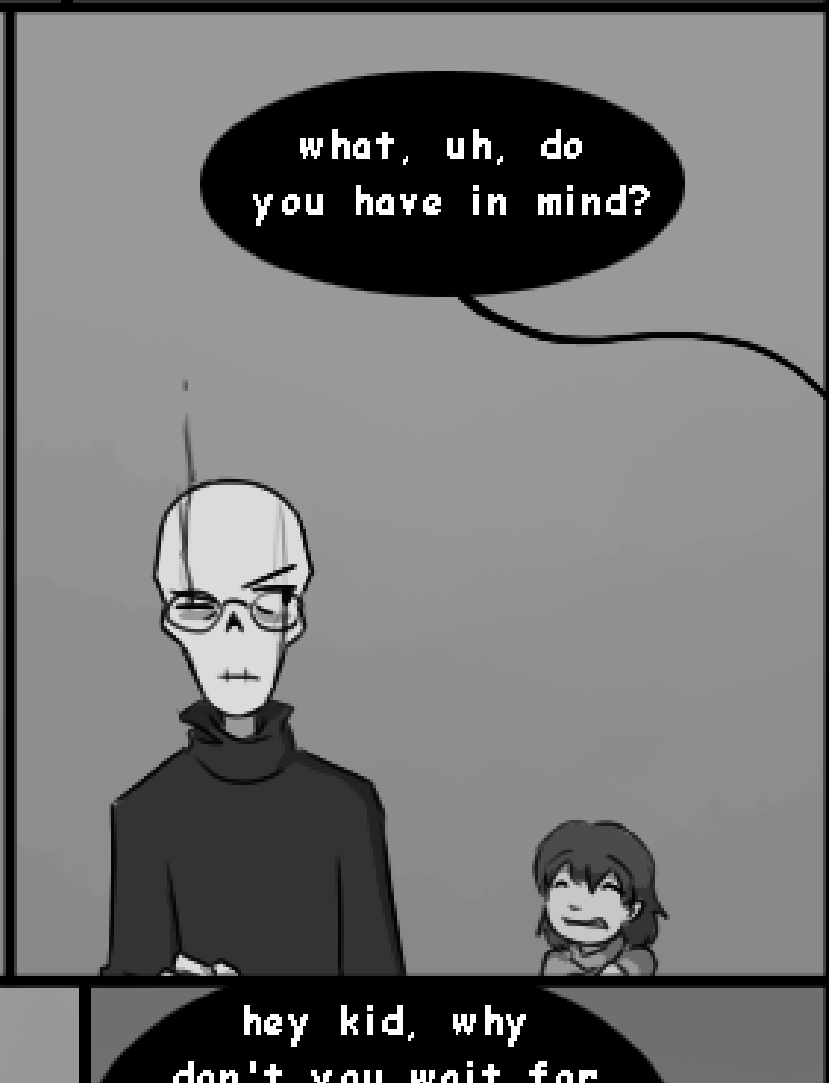
The little human child was listening to the wall, although I could not hear anything myself... this is all very strange.

The what











Hey, Alphys?

Got someone who needs a phone?

A phone? Oh, that's great, I've got lots of them...

Oh?

Um, hi, I'm uh... I'm Dr. Alphys, uh...

just like... Undyne just said...

(ugh)

...Hello, Alphys. I'm Dr. Gaster.

Is something wrong?

O-oh, uh, nothing? Nothing? Haha!

I just...

thought I, uh-

I was just thinking of- uh, I was, uh...

No, it's nothing!

Just, just me being silly, haha...

don't... don't worry about it...

it... it can't be what I'm thinking...

What are you thinking of...?

Nothing? Nothing? Haha! Just- just forget about it! Haha!

Uh, are you a skeleton? You k-kind of look like one. Are you related to Sans and Papyrus?

Oh, jeez, I shouldn't just... assume things-

uh! Uh, what kind of phone do you want? I have a few here! Some of them are even working, haha...

...May I see yours?

Uh?

Yours is functioning well, correct?

I want to know what a functioning phone looks like.

Oh, well... it's not, uh...

it's not functioning that great, actually...

it's been a little glitchy for a while... um, give me a second...

FAWFL LOCKED

It should be able to pick up your magic signature even without skin...

Yes, I see.

Ah...

there it is...

WB Alphys...

it's still here.

dimensionsboxb. dopplicator propulsion.exe llow.exe

Uh, you're not signing, haha...

Corrupted... but still... what let it remain?

We built it together, it wasn't entirely mine.

it had a record of my magical signature... that must have kept this fragment.

Uh, hello?

Oh... my apologies.

Here.

Uh, thanks...

Uh, so, um...

Here's a phone that should be working?

Oh!

Humph

!!

Humph

Humph

Humph

Humph

Humph

Humph

Humph

Humph

Humph

Humph

Humph

Humph

Humph

Humph

Humph

Humph

Humph

Humph

Humph

Humph

Humph

Humph

Humph





I-I've never seen rooms that appear and disappear before... one second it's there and the other it's not...

What do you think's going on?

I-I don't know... I'll keep looking into it.

Hey, you're a scientist, right?

Yes. Well... I was.

Do you have any idea what's going on here?

U-uh, you were a scientist too? U-um, where did you, uh, work?

Did you w-work for Asgore?

...Why do you ask?

Uh, it's just, um... I don't know wh-who was the royal scientist before me, and I was wondering, um...

maybe you...

If I was the Royal Scientist, surely one of you would have heard of me before today, correct? Every one would have.

I guess.

You know, didn't you say you knew Alphys before? Cause she doesn't seem to know anything about you.

I knew of her would be more accurate, I suppose.

I... we've... never met.

Oookay. Well, I've gotta go on patrol, let me know if you find anything out, okay, Alphys?

Y-yeah, of course...

I should probably be on my way as well.

O-oh, um, well, it was n-nice meeting you! Haha?

It was nice meeting you as well.

You seem very interested in my hands.

Oh! Oh my god! Uh! I-I-I didn't mean to-!

Um! I'm sorry! I was-uh- it's not- it's not what you think! I mean, it's not- um, um

What is it then?

They're just, uh, unique! Really unique! Ha ha! It's nothing weird! I promise!

You looked as if you'd seen them before.

Ha ha whaaaat? How could I have done that, haha! We've never met before!! Ha ha! That'd be impossible! It's not- not like you're a ghost or something! Ghosts don't have hands anyway! Haha hahaha!

Alphys, have you seen my hands before?

Uh- well, um- I, uh...

well it- um...

it's, uh, it's silly, haha, it's nothing.

it was just, uh... just, nothing...

Alphys, what was it?

Uh, well, um, I was, really tired one night, and I wasn't thinking straight.

and for a second, maybe, I thought, I saw something in the reflection-

in my phone's reflection I mean, but, I didn't and I couldn't have.

so, it's just, some weird thing, haha! Just some weird, unexplainable thing...

Of course.

your phone.

One of the few remnants of my existence... I must have reached out to you without thinking. You were always reaching out to me.

I suppose it was my turn, to just as much avail.

Perhaps it's better this way.

U-um, you're doing it again-

n-not signing, I mean...

Ah, my apologies. It slips my mind sometimes.

You're probably right: it must have been some strange coincidence. Best not to worry about it. Thank you again for the phone.

Uh, n-no problem... um, if you need anything, you can call me...

not that... I'm saying you'd need anything from me... ha ha...

You can call me too, if you like.

Oh- but, um...

ugh, you wouldn't be able to use it... I can't understand you...

ugh, I'd need some kind of app that'd translate sign language over a phone...

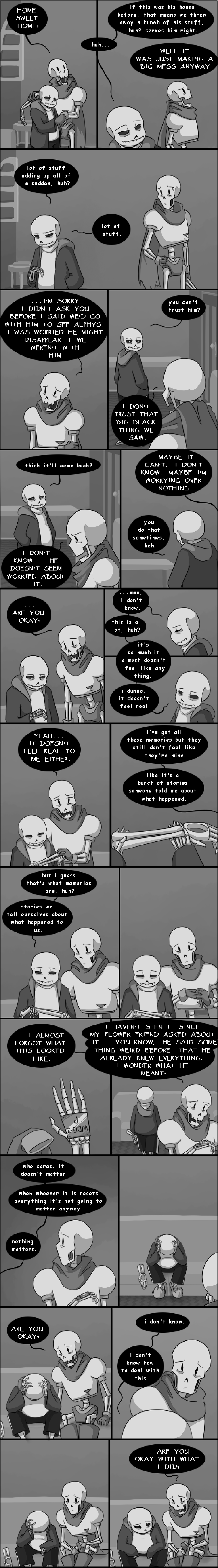
I have some ideas for one. Perhaps we could work on one together.

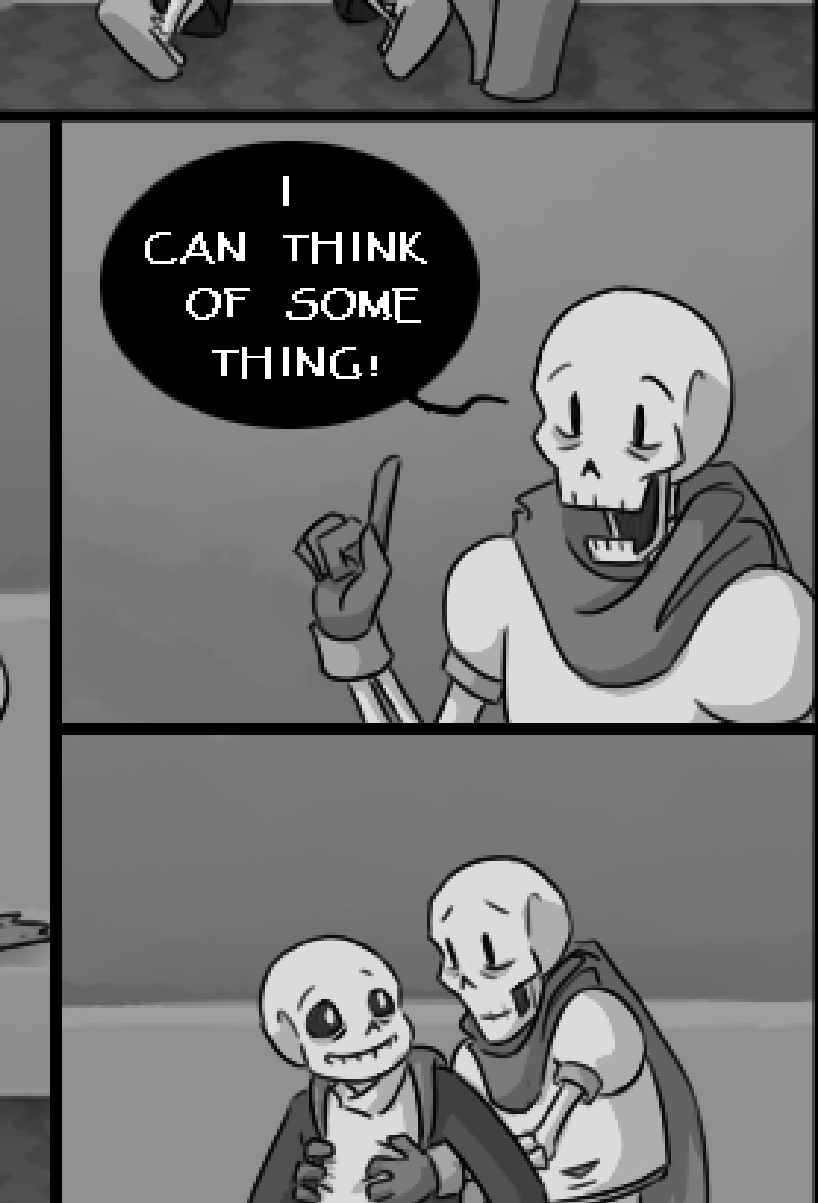
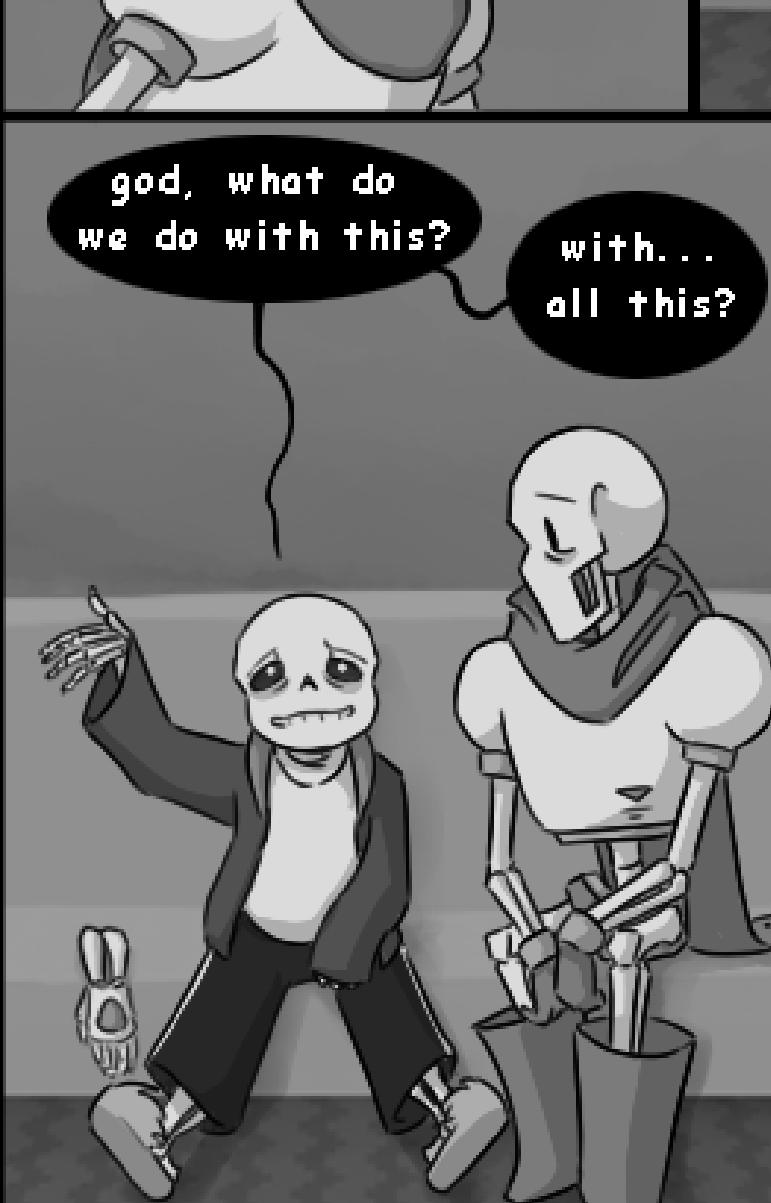
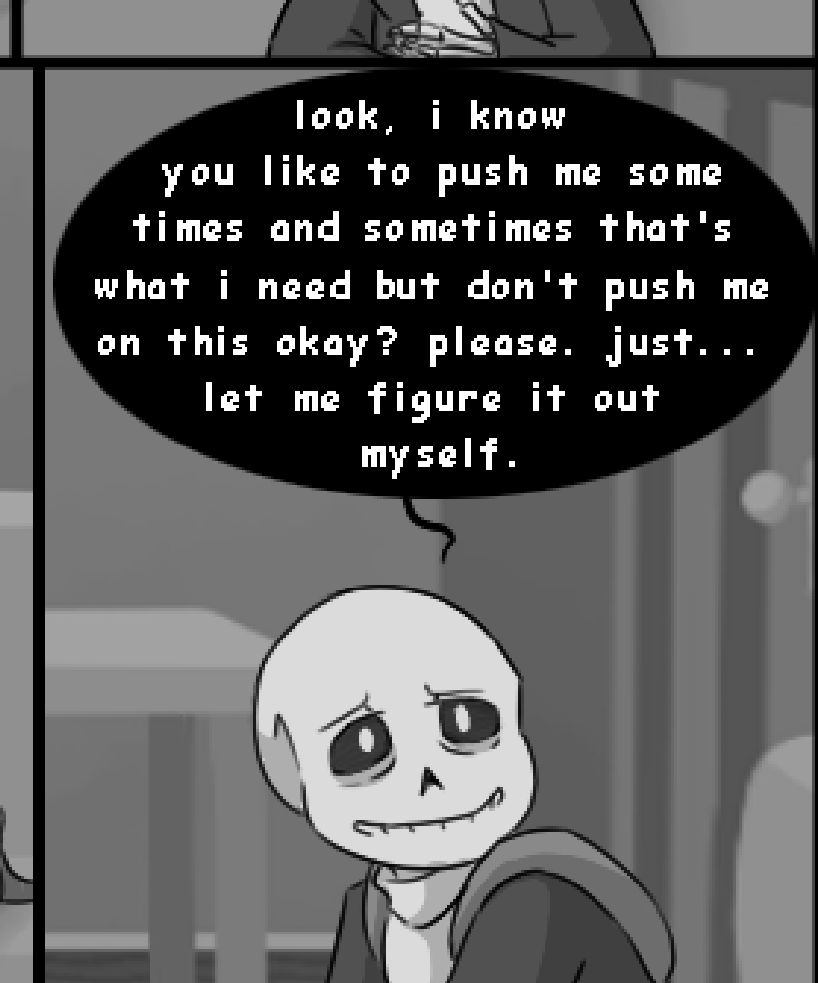
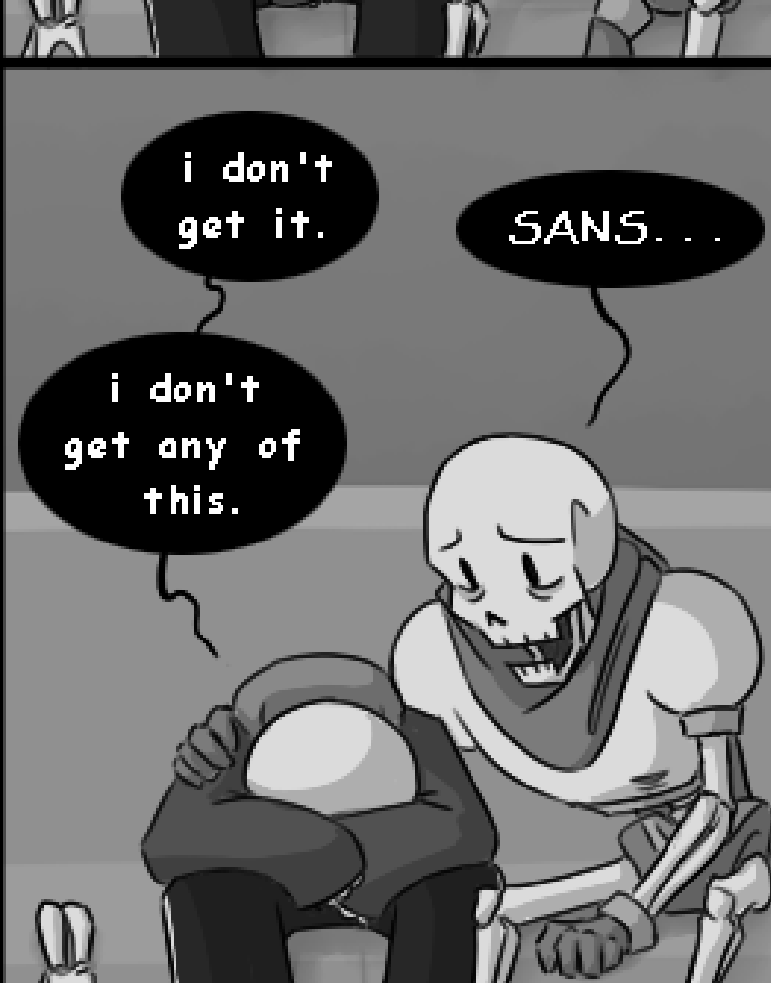
U-what, really? Oh wow- um th-that'd be great! Uh- thank you, haha.

I-I mean, if you'd really want to work together on something with someone like me, haha...

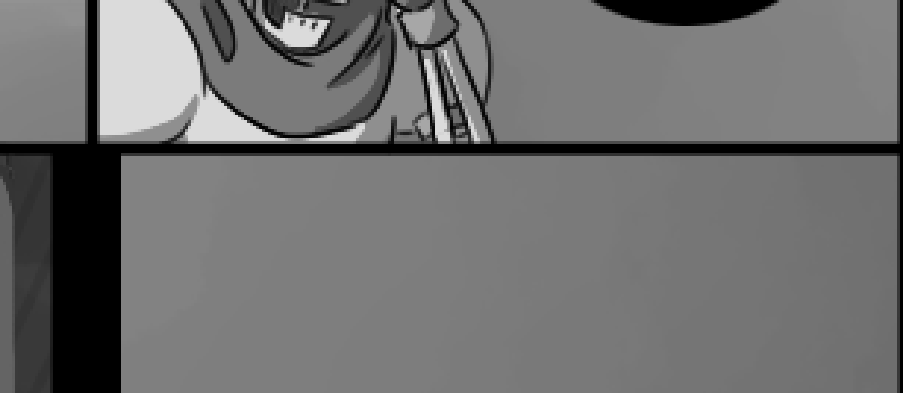
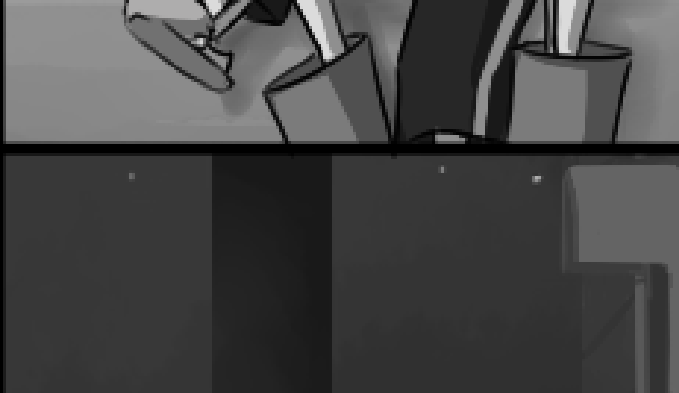
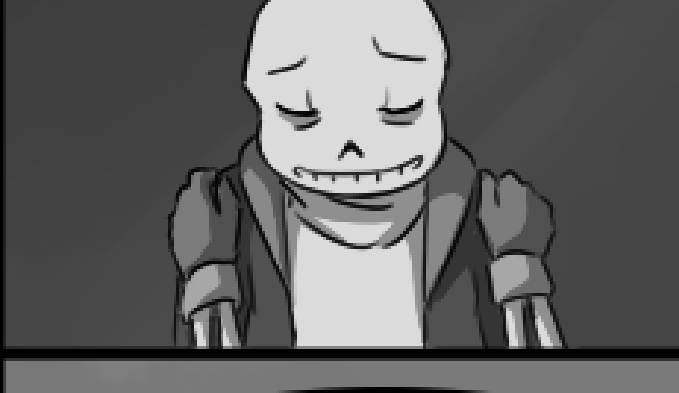
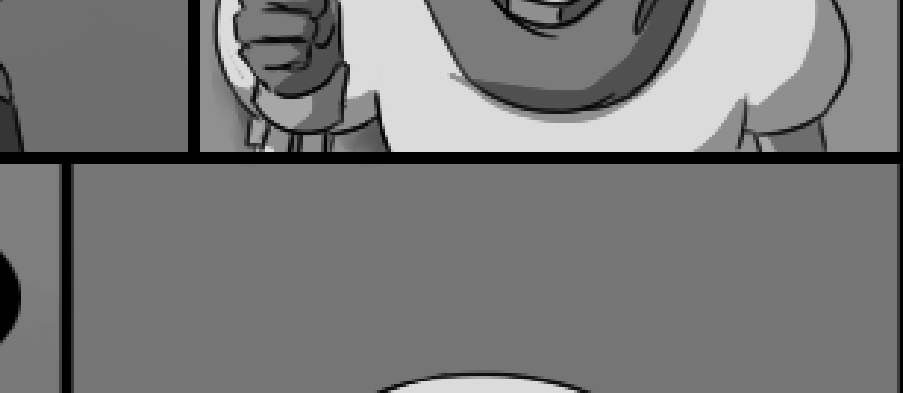
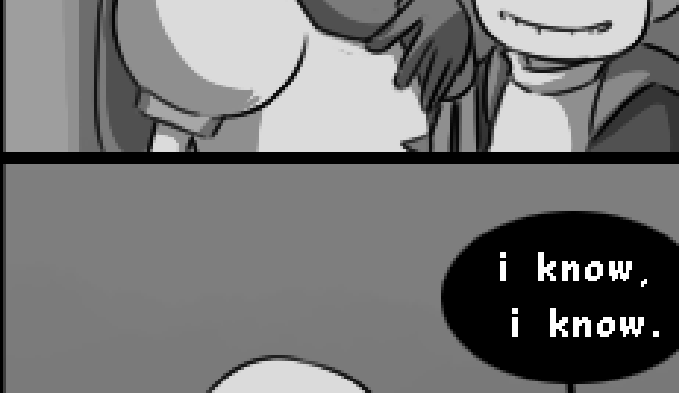
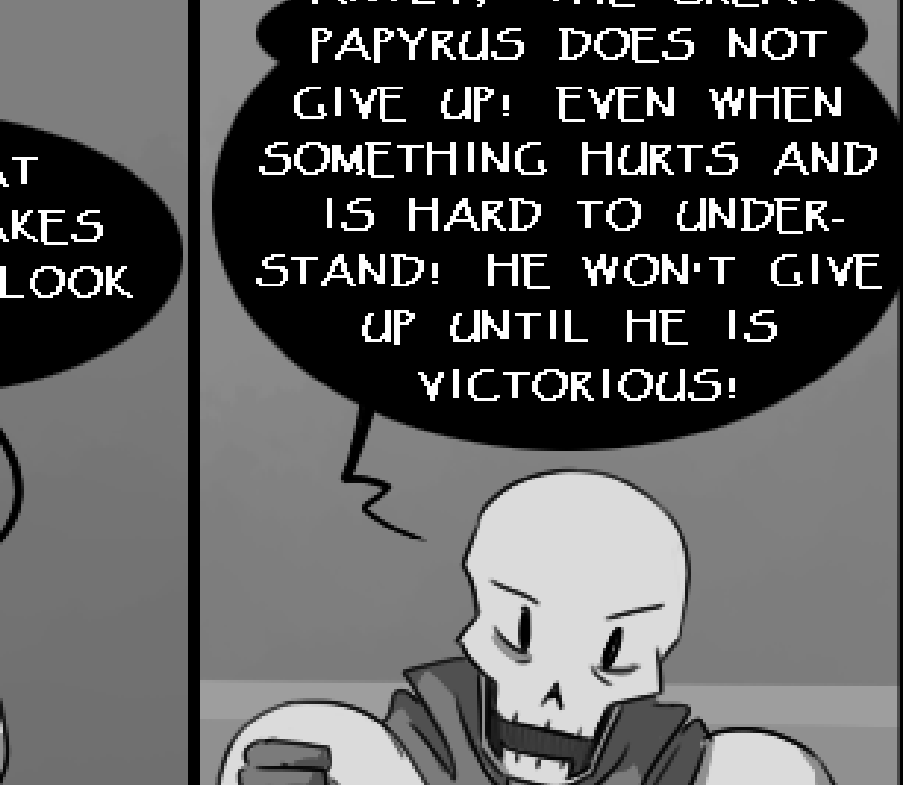
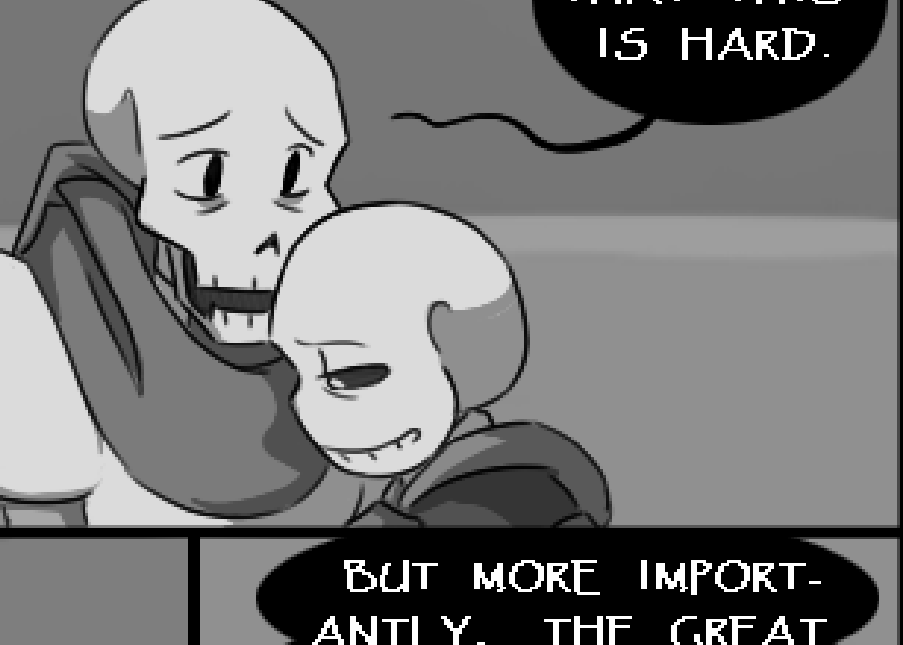
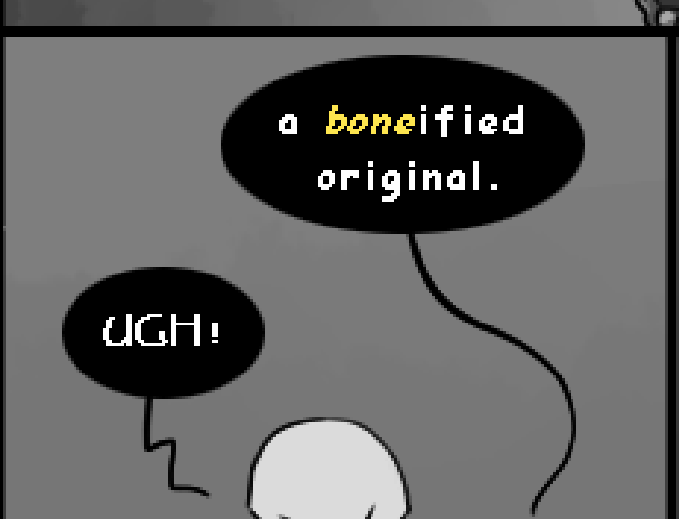
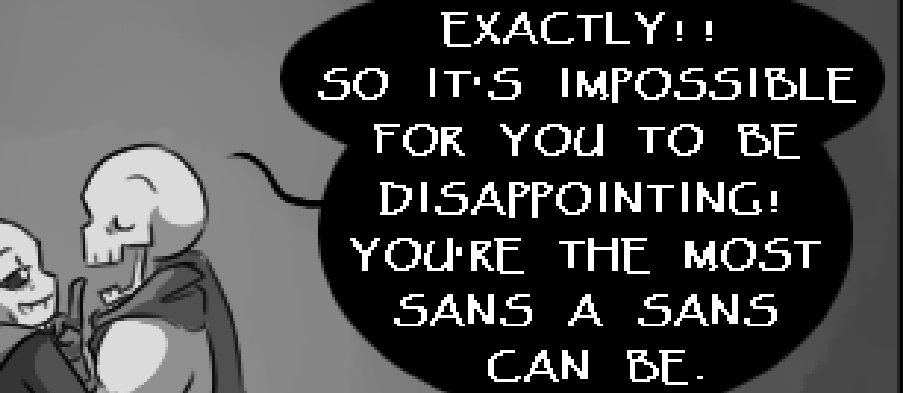
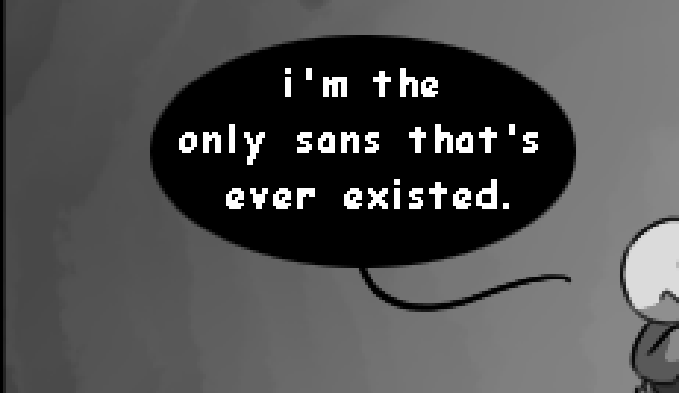
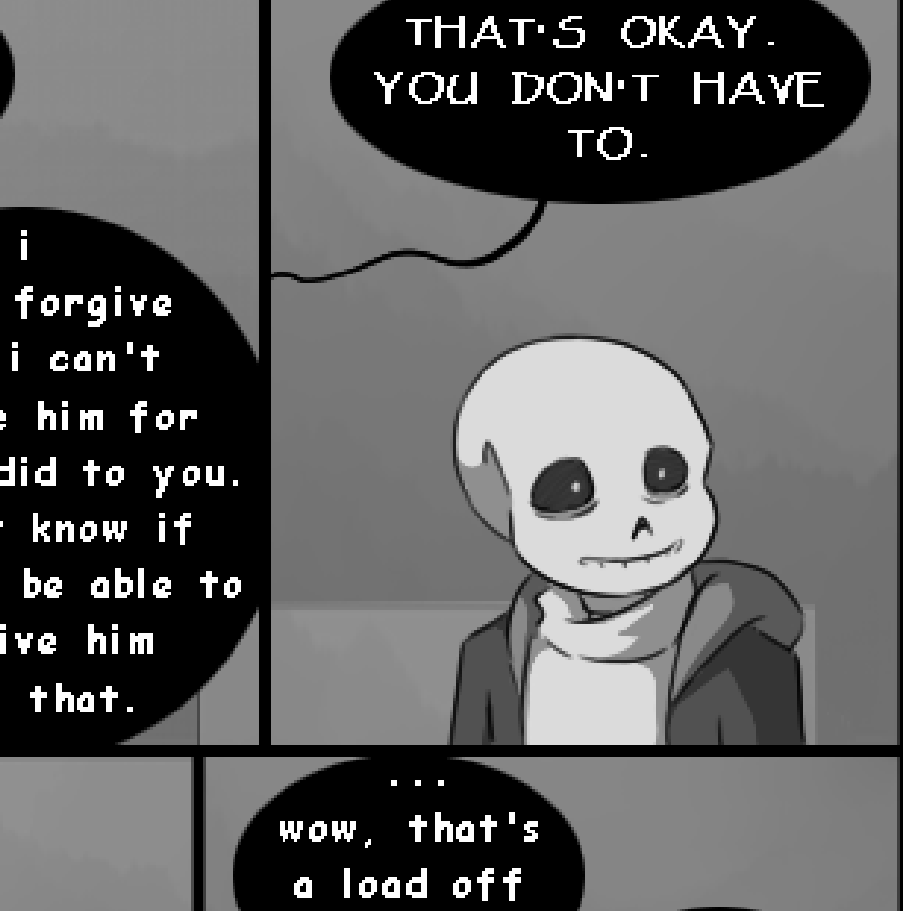
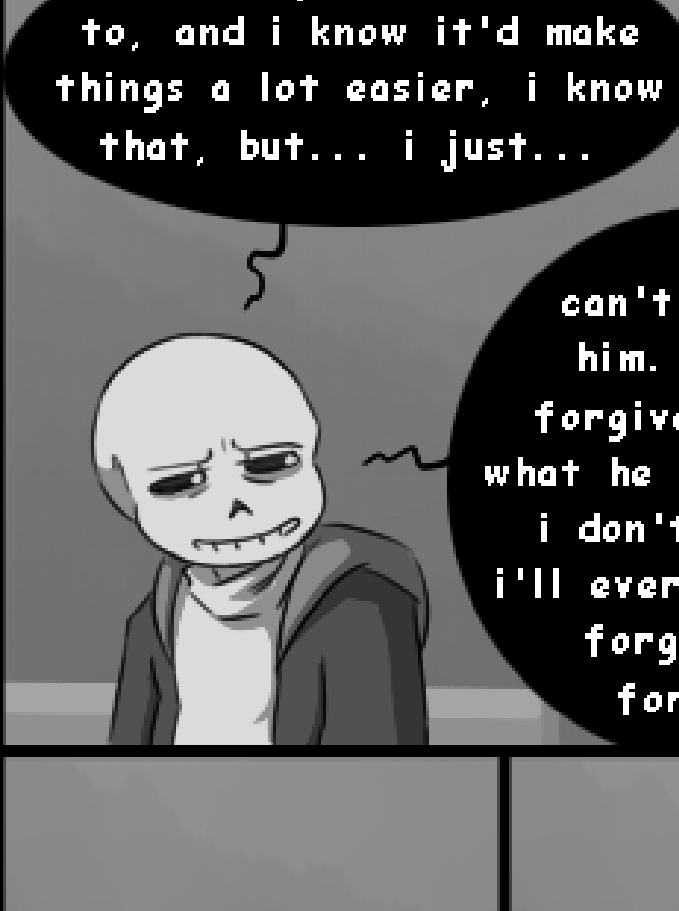
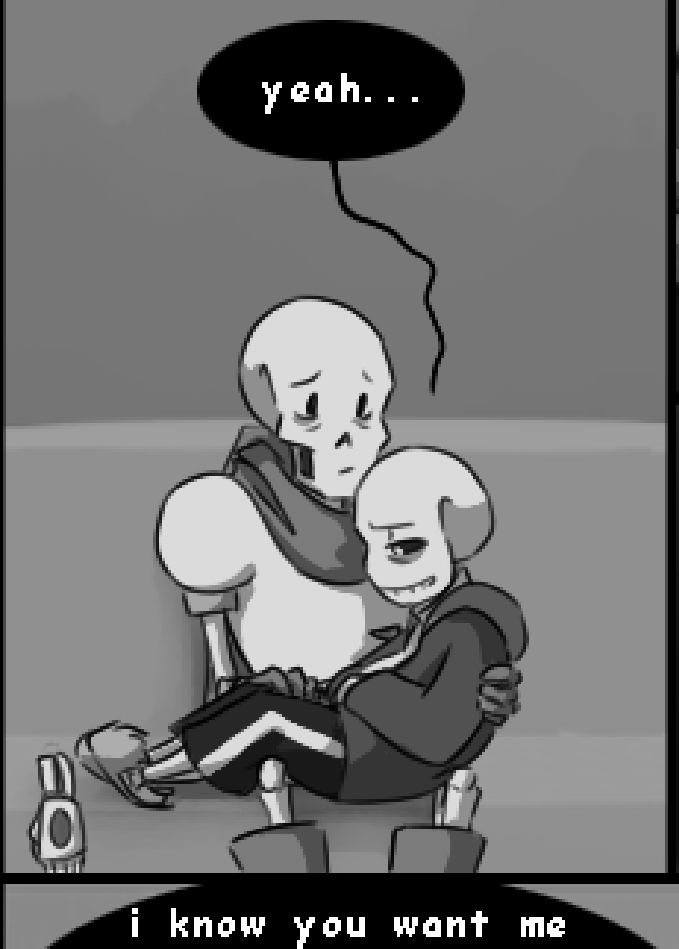
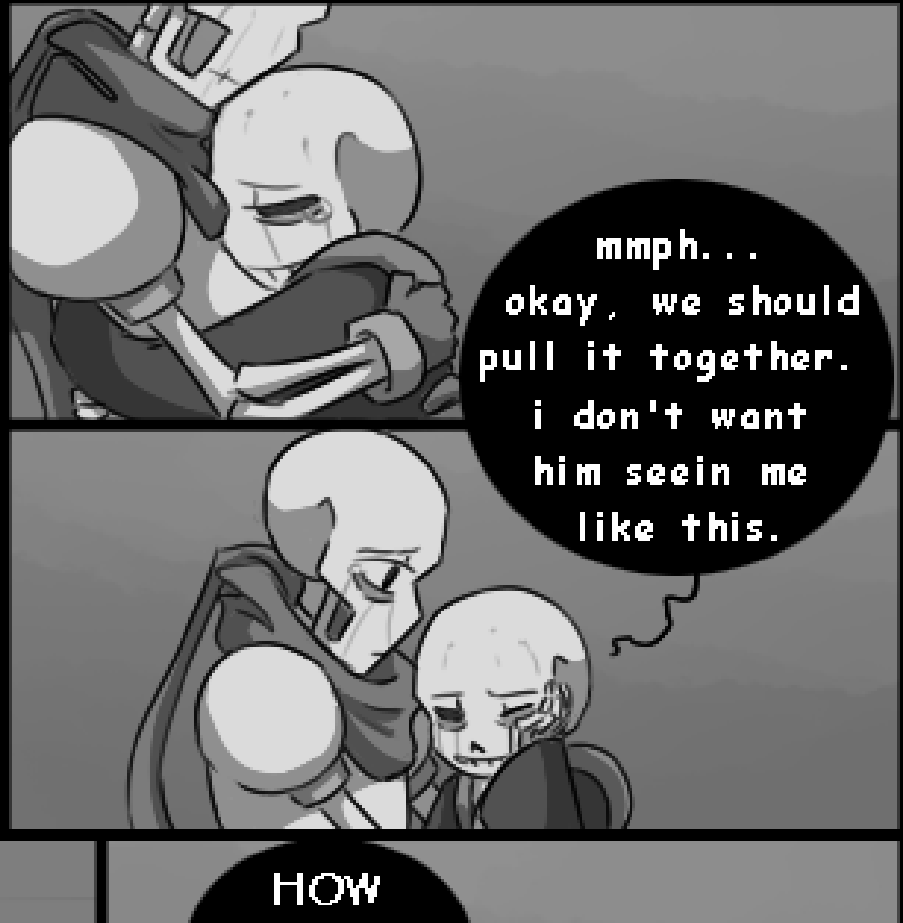
Of course I do, Alphys.

Of course I do.











Ah...

You really have redecorated, haven't you?

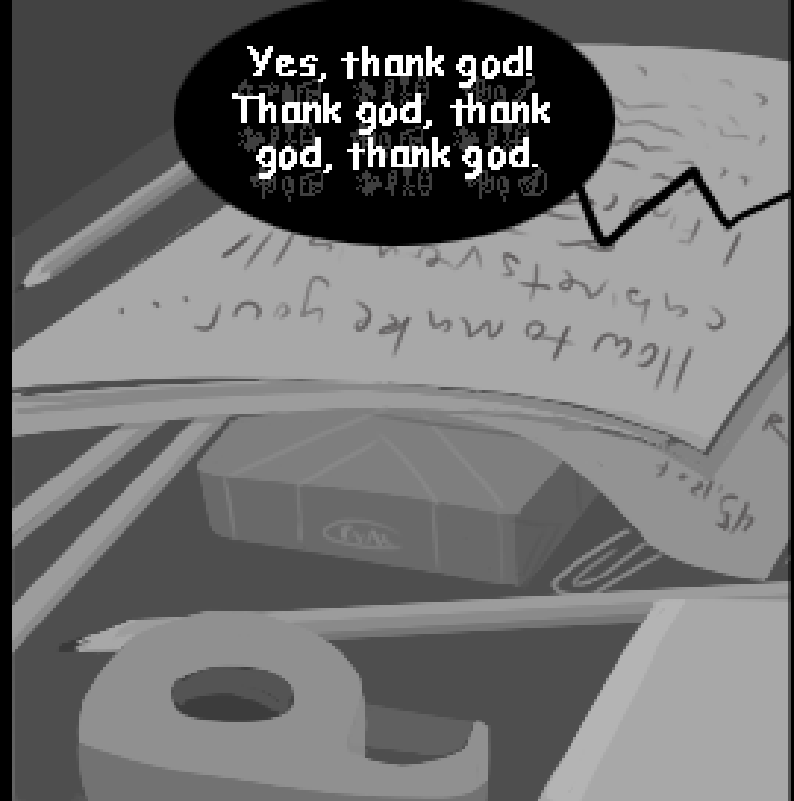
sure did. i wouldn't go lookin for your old stuff, we tossed it out ages ago.



Wait, did you throw away everything?? Tell me you didn't throw away everything!!



Come on, come on, please tell me you didn't, please tell me you didn't-



Yes, thank god! Thank god, thank god, thank god.



Come on come on

(SANS WHAT'S HAPPENING)

(you got me)



Aaaahhhhhhhh, god, I didn't know anything could taste this good.

It was all worth it for this moment.



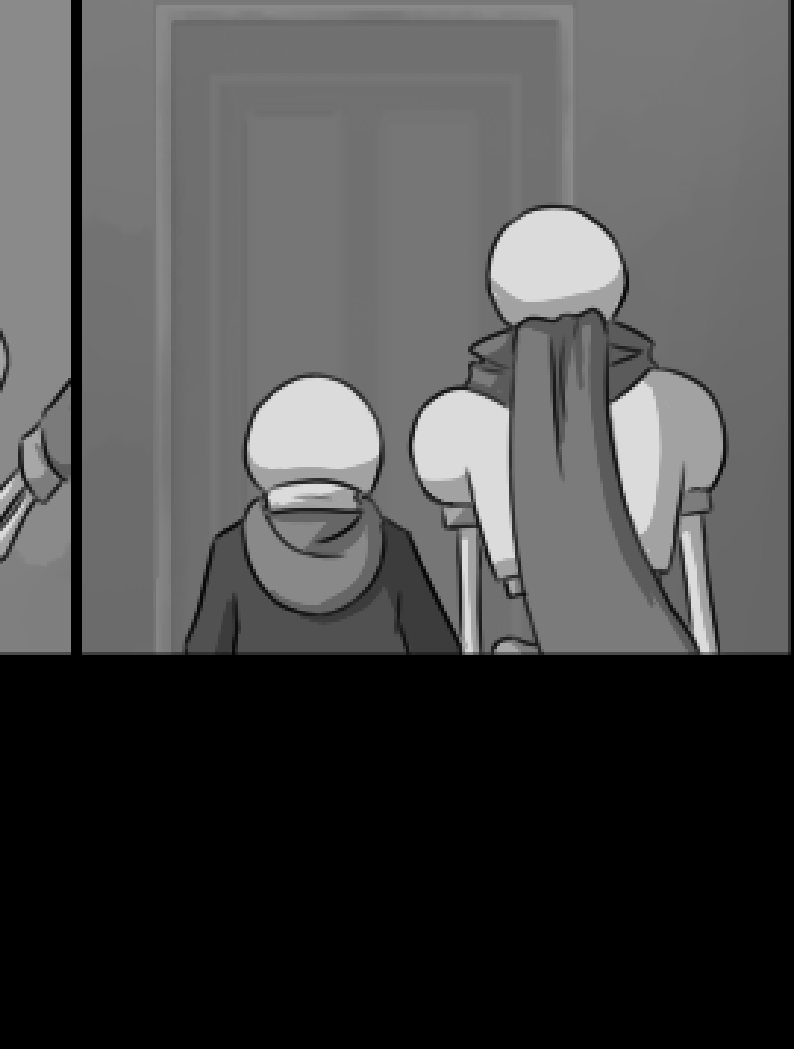
SO THAT'S WHAT THAT SMELL WAS.

woah



Just give me a minute, please.

Just a minute.



Alright, what were we talking about?



WAIT, IS THAT A NEW ONE? DID YOU FINISH EATING THE OTHER ONE?

You don't eat cigarettes.



IT LOOKED GOOD THOUGH! CAN I TRY ONE?

Absolutely not.



You're never to even think of touching one whatsoever.



you're not the boss of us anymore, remember?



...Ah, I'm sorry. I just didn't want you getting addicted to them as well. It's not a good habit.



THEN WHY ARE YOU EATING THEM?

You don't eat them.



Besides... they're also very difficult to get, and I don't know what they'd do to your bodies. You're not like other monsters.



that's right, we're things.



...You're not things.

You never were.



But you are different, and that comes with costs and benefits.

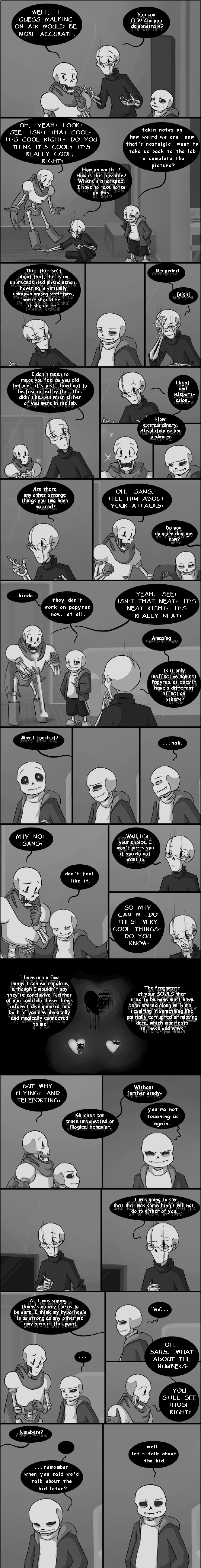


OH, LIKE FLYING RIGHT?



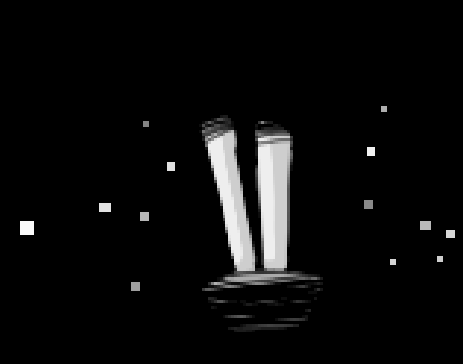
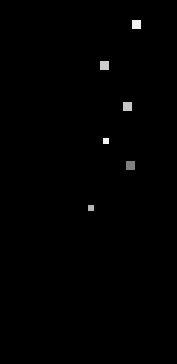
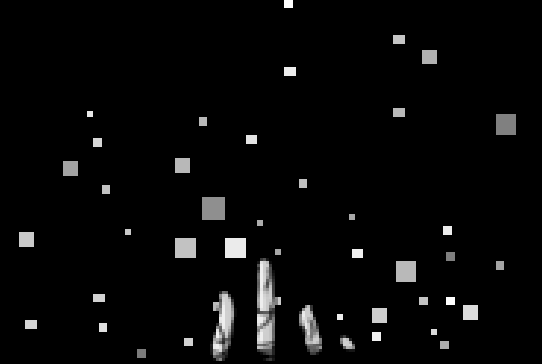
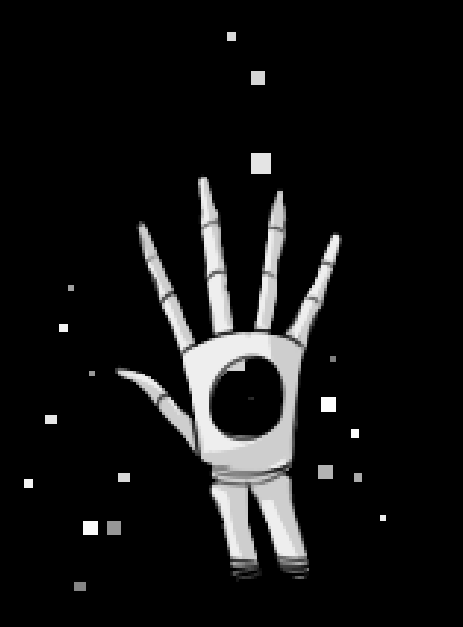
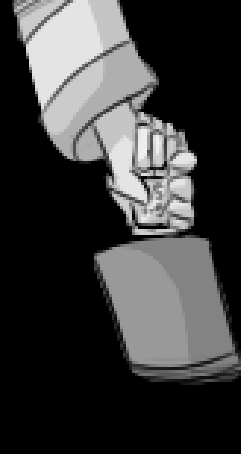
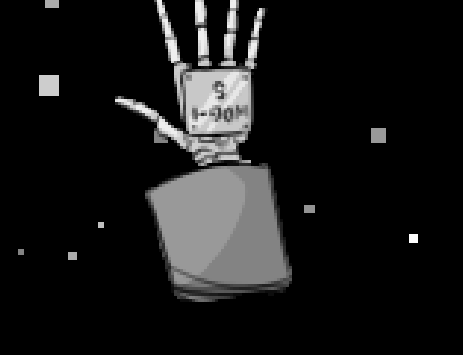
...What?

hoo boy.











Ugh...

YOU'RE AWAKE!! FINALLY!! YOU MISSED ALL THE GOOD STUFF!!

What happened..?

YEAH, ME TOO! I STILL DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT WAS BUT THAT'S OKAY BECAUSE IT DOESN'T MATTER!

EVERY-ONE'S OKAY AND NO ONE FOUGHT AND GOT DEAD AND THE BARRIER'S GONE!!

The last thing I remember was a white light...

The Barrier's gone?

YEAH, FRISK DID IT! OH, THAT'S THE HUMAN YOU MET EARLIER. THEY BROKE IT! SOMEHOW.

I'll believe it when I see

it...

Your...

your majesty, you're...

you're alive...?

Oh, greetings! I am Toriel, former guardian of the Ruins. Who are you?

I... the Ruins...?

you were- all this time?

Oh dear, I'm sorry, I am having trouble understanding you.

You...

I thought you were...

why didn't you...

Dr. Gaster, you know sign language, don't you?

Could you please sign for us?

It is difficult for us to understand you when you don't.

I...

I...

My... my apologies.

I'm... I'm Dr. Gaster.

Well, it's nice to meet you, Dr. Gaster.

He's Sans and Papyrus's father.

Oh! I did not know they had a father!

I thought there were no more skeletons left. That's wonderful!

Isn't it? He was lost for a long time, but they recently found him again.

Oh, I'm so glad to hear it! Now you will be able to come to the surface with your family!

Yes...

I... I suppose so.

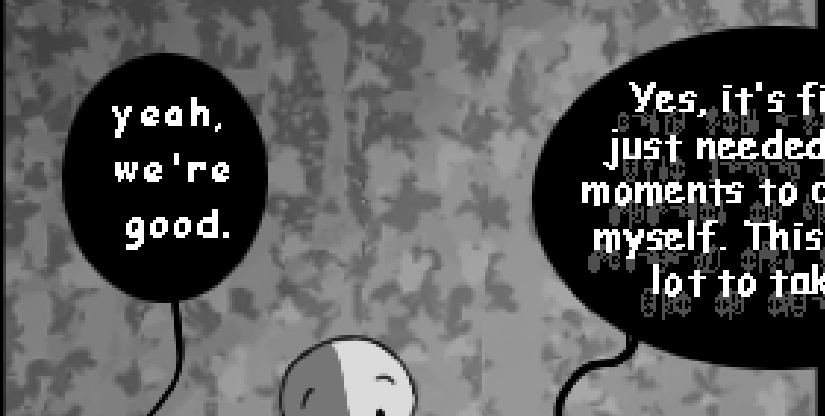
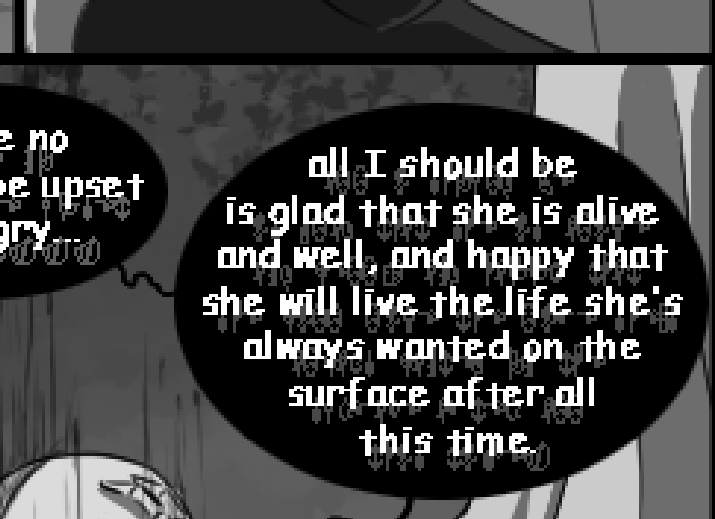
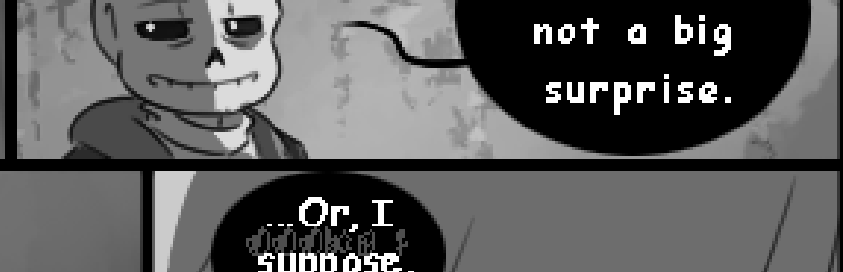
Are you alright? You look a little...

I'm alright. Please, excuse me. There are some things I want to bring with me to the surface, and I must go fetch them.

Oh, alright! I hope I will see you again soon, Dr. Gaster.













WHAT WERE YOU AND ASGORE TALKING ABOUT?

Oh, you saw that? He wanted to ask me something.

...He asked me if I'd be willing to stay with him from now on.

HE WANTS YOU TO STAY WITH HIM??

That's what he said.

I suspect he hopes that it will let him see you two more often. He's very fond of you both, which doesn't surprise me, considering. I can't think of any other reason he'd ask... he doesn't even know me anymore.

...Although, I suppose he never did.

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

...

ARE YOU GOING TO STAY WITH HIM INSTEAD OF US...?

...i think it's a good idea.

SANS?

you two can keep an eye on each other.

keep each other out of trouble.

Yes, that's true.

and i think maybe we should ease into this whole "family" thing.

you know me, bro, i like taking my time.

... THAT IS TRUE, YOU'RE ALWAYS LOLLYGAGGING ABOUT!

AND ASGORE WILL ALSO BE A SUITABLE ROLE-MODEL WHILE I'M NOT AROUND TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW!

you two do have a lot in common.

That's true.

BUT DON'T THINK THAT DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO BE GOOD WHILE I'M NOT THERE! I'M GOING TO CHECK ON YOU EVERY DAY TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE BEING THE BEST SKELETON YOU CAN BE!

as far as evil clonedads go.

Yes, I have no intention on going back on my word. I will try.

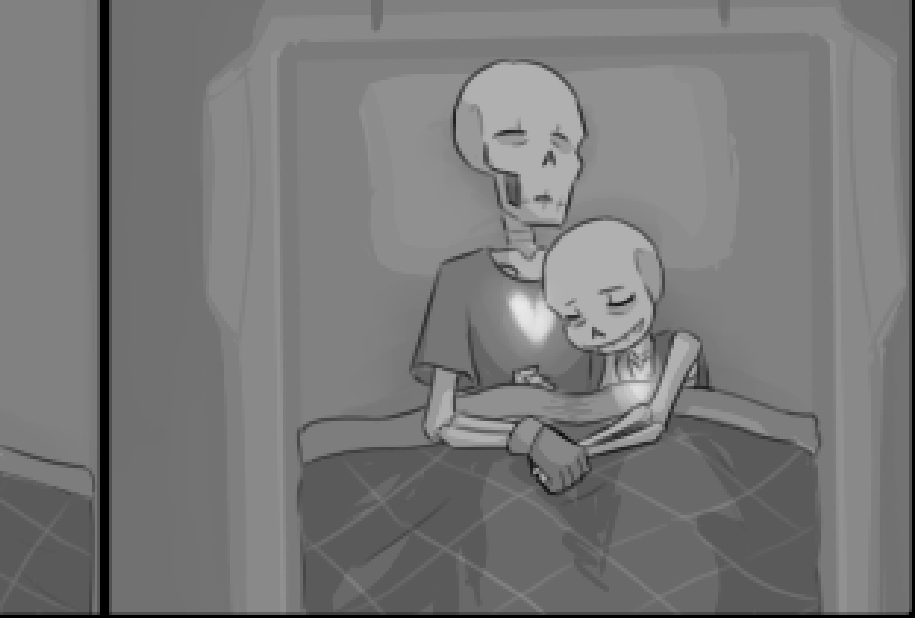
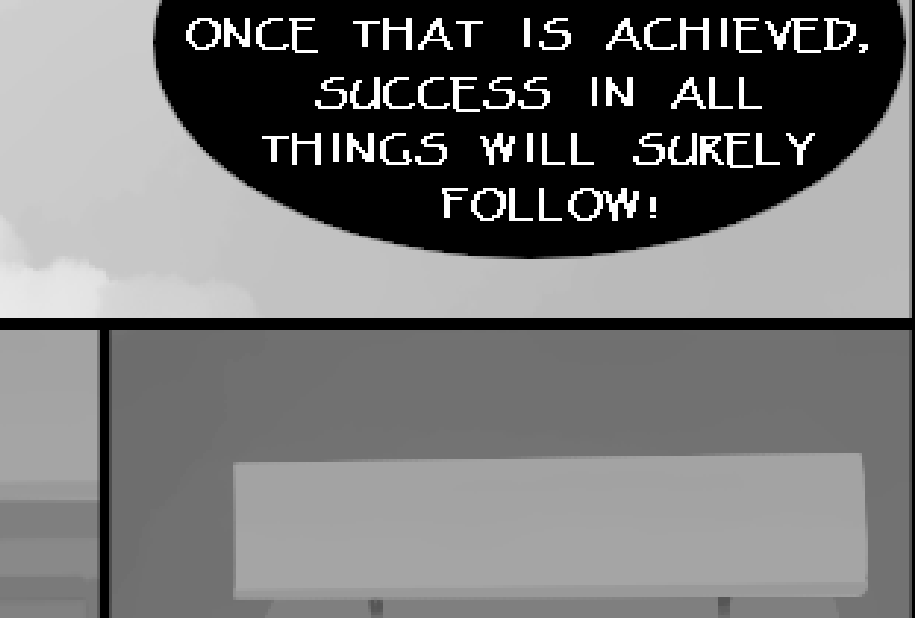
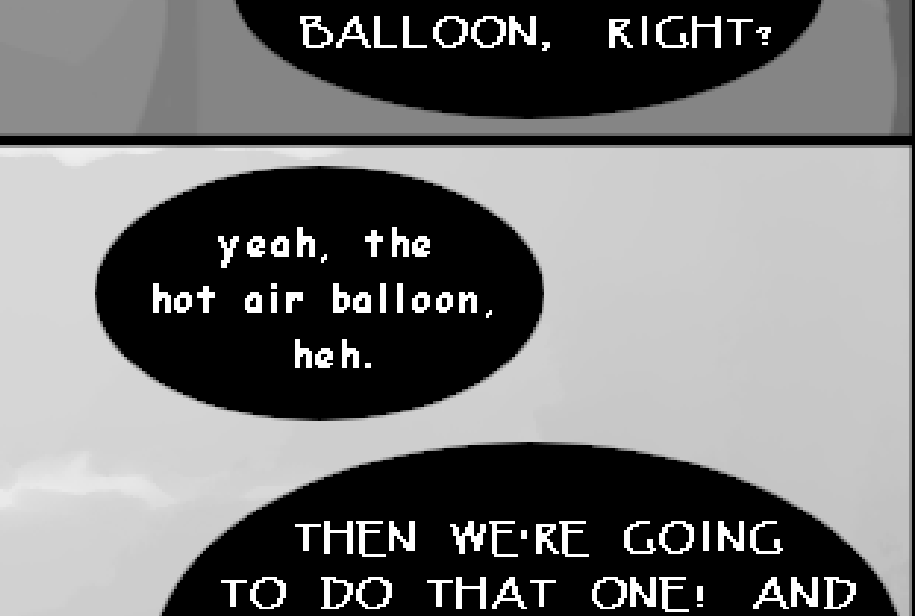
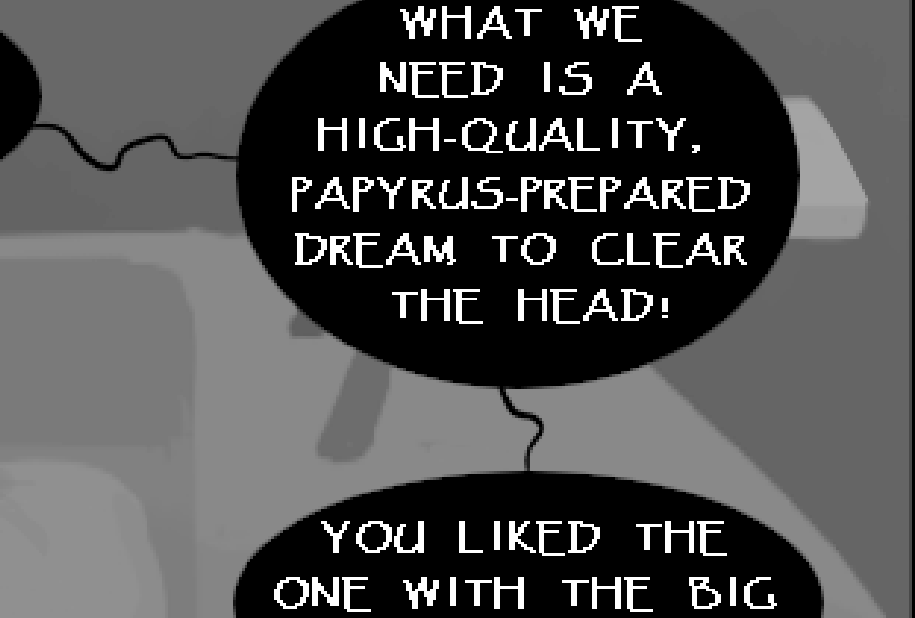
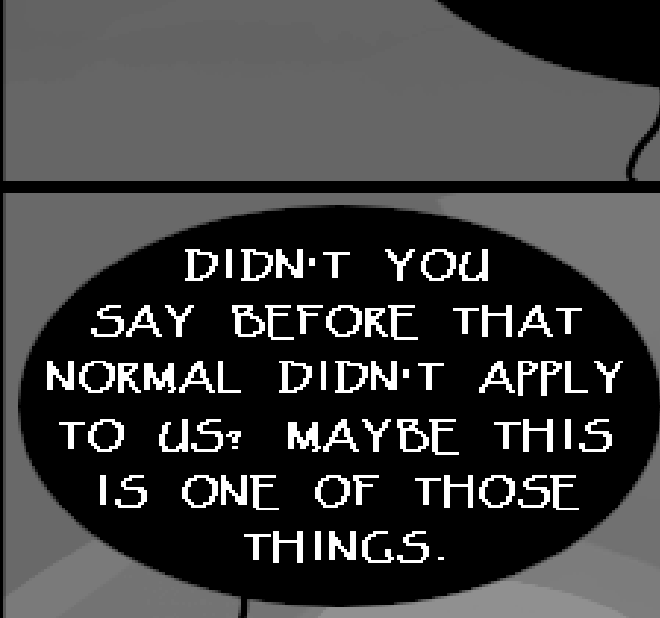
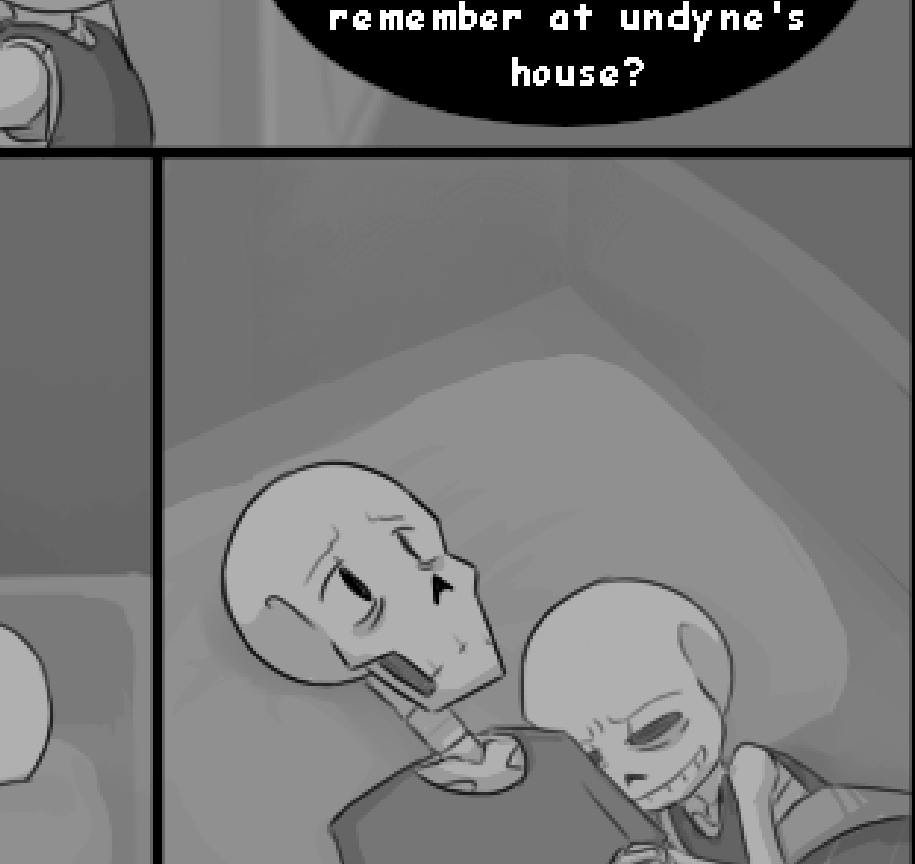
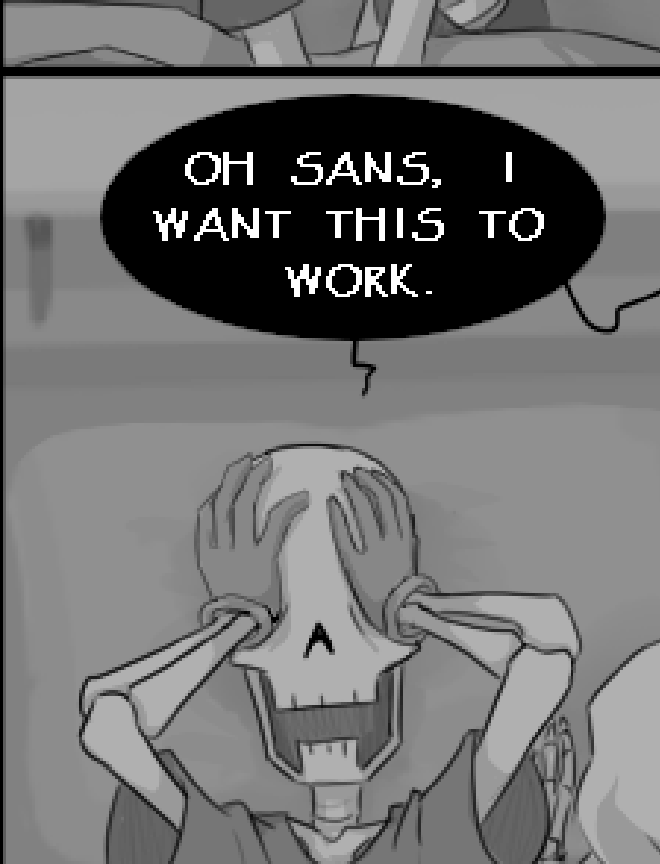
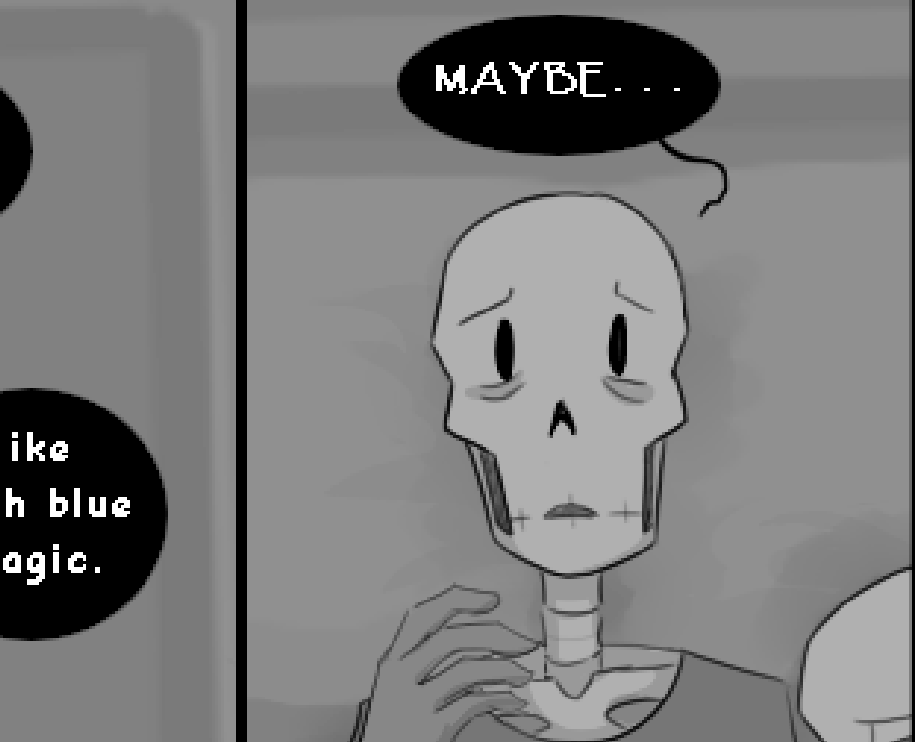
I owe you, and Asgore, that much.

THEN COME ON!

I WANT TO SEE EVERYTHING ON THE SURFACE. AND WE'RE ALREADY LATE GETTING STARTED!









Gaster...?  
What are you doing  
outside?

Ah?

Oh... I was  
looking at the  
stars.

I'm trying to  
convince myself  
they're real.

That they won't  
disappear when I close  
my eyes.

That even if they  
don't disappear, humans  
won't take them away  
from us again at any  
moment.



You know...

we're on the  
surface now.

but it  
sounds like  
you're still  
trapped under-  
ground.

"You'll  
never leave  
here."

not in  
a way that  
matters."

What?

Nothing...  
pay me no  
mind.

This is what  
I wanted,

this is  
what I worked  
so hard for...

why do I feel  
like this?

Ah, I  
shouldn't be  
bothering you with  
my problems.

This is  
your world to  
enjoy.

You know,

...

Frisk told me  
that humans  
write a lot  
of books  
about...  
feelings  
like this.

Tch.  
What would  
humans know  
about a monster's  
suffering? They're  
the ones who  
caused it.

Well, they  
may not know exactly  
how we feel as  
monsters...

but we  
may still have  
some feelings  
in common.

There is  
a human library  
nearby... if you're  
interested, perhaps

A repository  
of human  
knowledge.

an  
opportunity  
to study their  
discoveries,  
understand their  
technology,  
to...

difficult  
for me to ask,  
but

will you  
come with me to  
the library?

Being around  
too many humans  
makes me

nervous.

Oh... yes  
of course! It  
will be fun!

Thank you.







You... remind me of  
someone I used to know,  
a long time ago.

I betrayed their  
trust in me... I broke  
their heart, and I never got the  
chance to apologize to them, or  
pay for what I'd done.



And now I'll  
never see them  
again...

they're gone,  
and they're never  
coming back.



...I  
see.

If...

if being near me  
is that painful for you,  
then perhaps another  
place-

No, please.

I want to  
stay with  
you.



If I can do right  
by you, then at least  
that can honor their  
memory.



Please.



Well...



if staying  
here will help  
you, then...

you are welcome  
to stay as long as  
you like.

I just want  
to help.



...And it would  
be nice to see you  
smile someday.

Have I... not  
done that?

No.  
Well... not  
that I've  
seen.

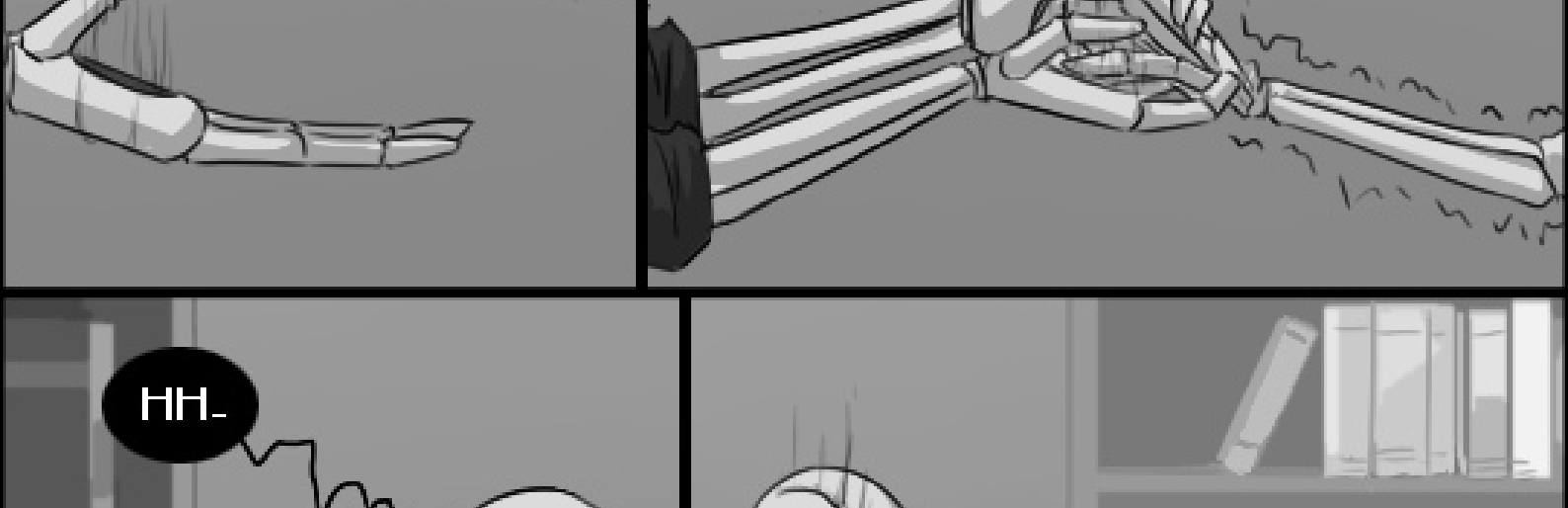
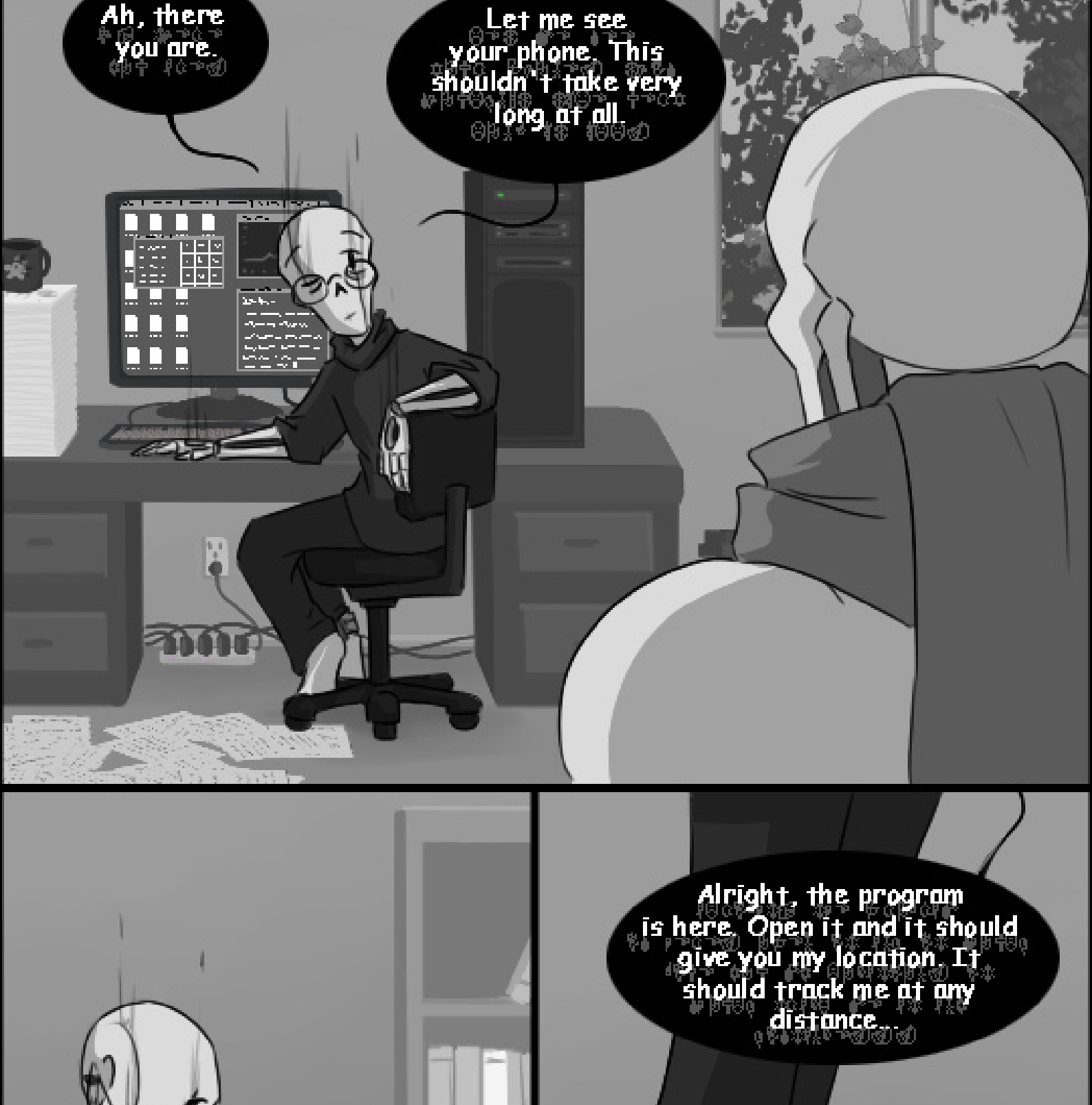
But  
it's never  
too late  
to start.



I suppose  
you're right.









Hello, your majesty.

Oh, Dr. Gaster! How nice to see you. What are your hobbies?

The king asked me to give these to you.

Ah... did he.

Well, please tell him in the future that I am not interested in his flowers.

I will.

I hope he hasn't been too much of a burden on you.

He's hopeless when it comes to taking care of himself.

He hasn't, your majesty. The situation suits us both well, as far as I can tell.

Oh, you're so formal! You don't have to say "your majesty" all the time, you know. You can just call me Toriel.

It's my preference. Forgive me.

I don't know any other monster who cares as much about protocol as you! Asgore and I certainly do not...

May I ask you something?

Of course.

Why did you seclude yourself in the Ruins for so long? Why didn't you tell anyone where you were?

Ah... well...

I knew there was an opening to the surface there. Any humans who fell would have to come through the Ruins...

I thought, if I could find them before Asgore did, then I could protect them from him.

But... time and time again...

Why didn't you tell anyone you were there?

I... well... I didn't want Asgore to know where I'd gone. After what he said, I just...

I couldn't even look at him. He wasn't the monster I married anymore. All I could think of was making sure his plan didn't succeed.

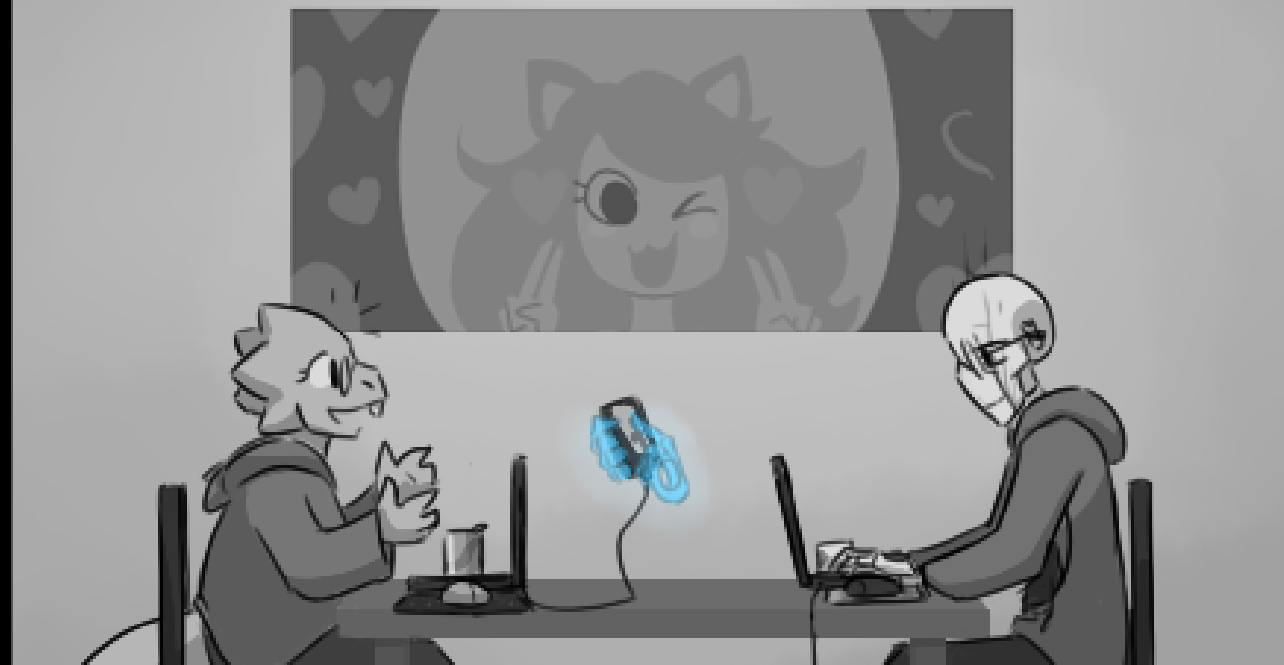
What are your Favorite Hobbies?

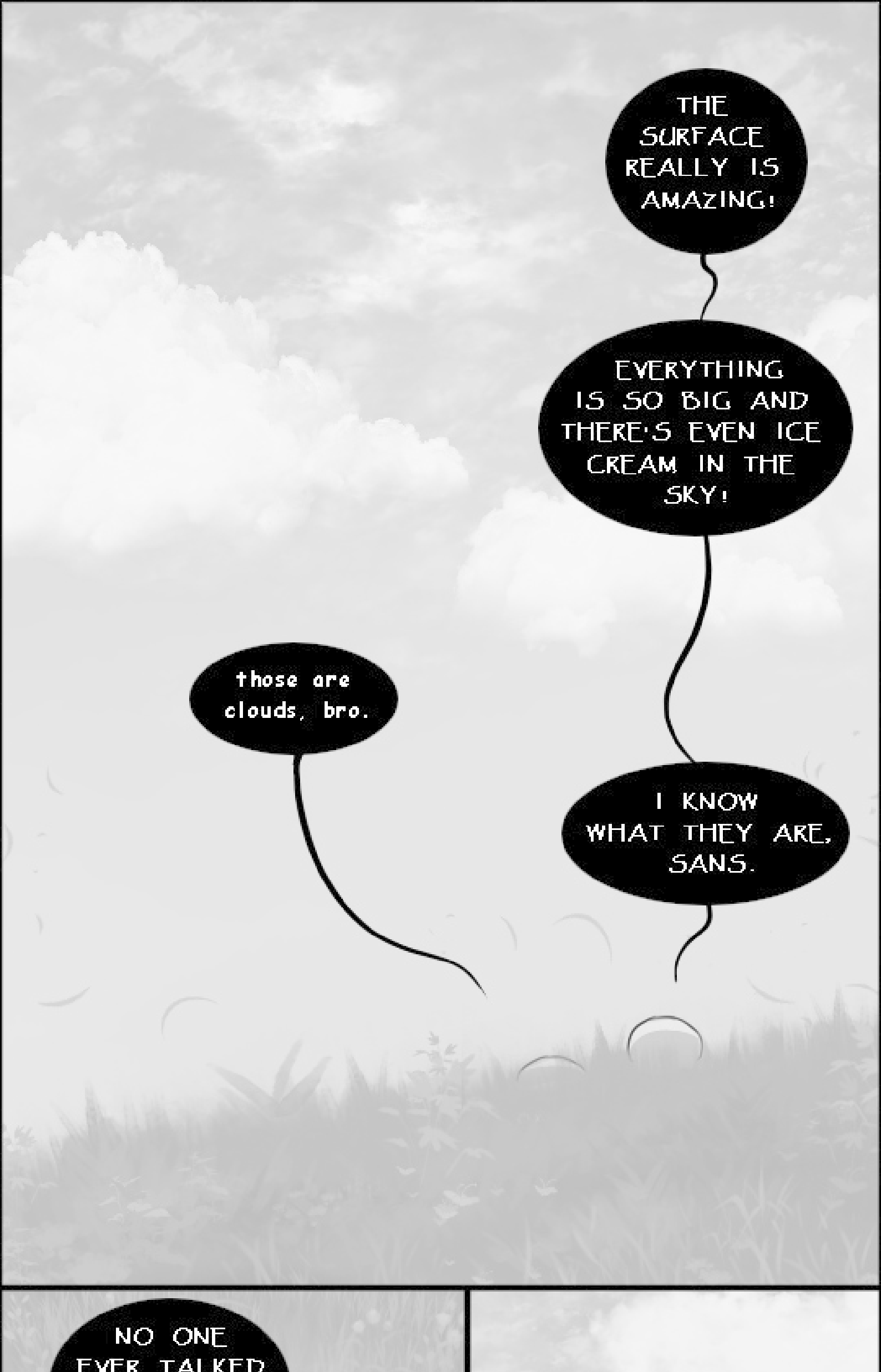
Are you alright? You look upset.











THE  
SURFACE  
REALLY IS  
AMAZING!

EVERYTHING  
IS SO BIG AND  
THERE'S EVEN  
ICE  
CREAM IN THE  
SKY!

those are  
clouds, bro.

I KNOW  
WHAT THEY ARE,  
SANS.



NO ONE  
EVER TALKED  
ABOUT THEM  
BEFORE!

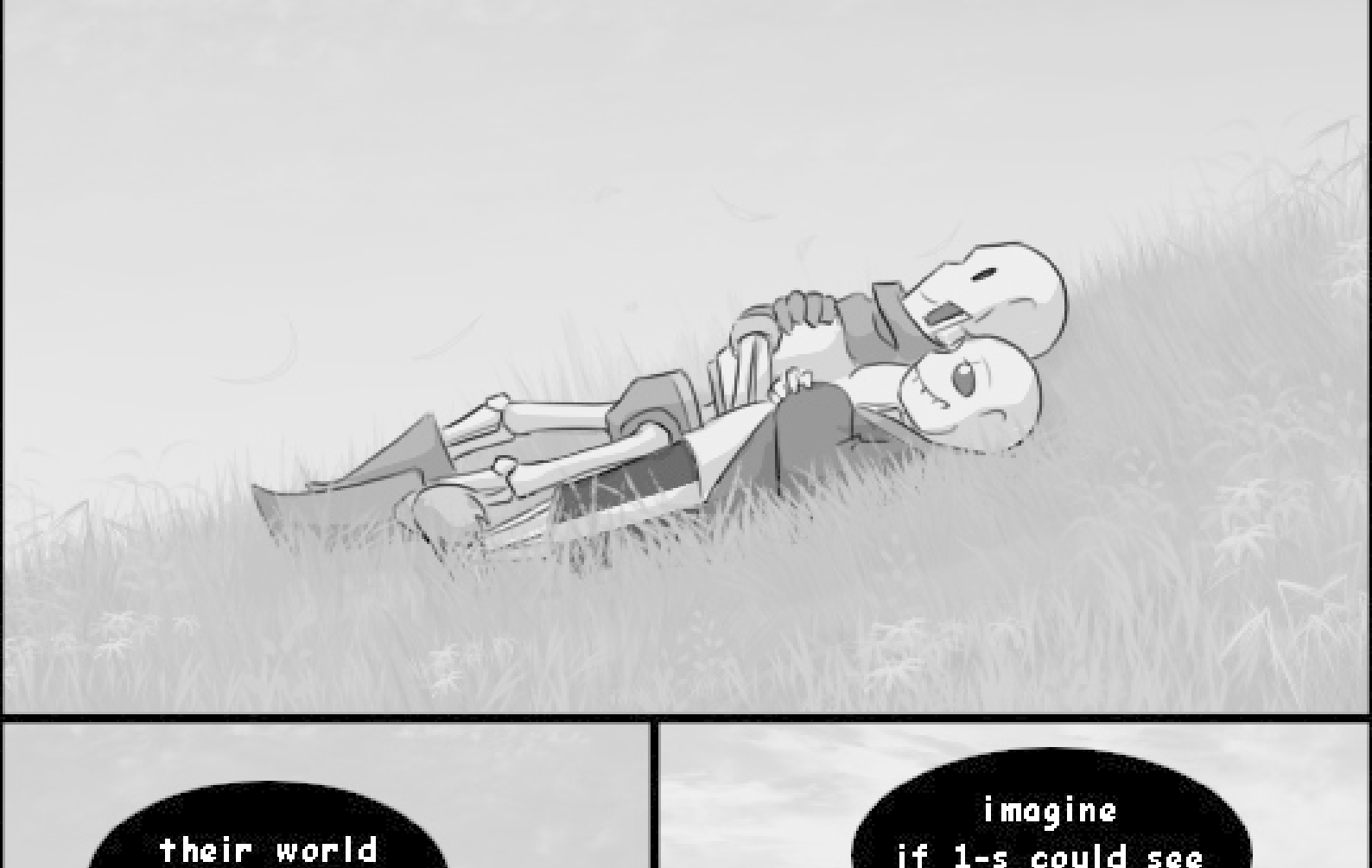
i guess only  
a few monsters are  
still alive who ever  
saw 'em before,  
heh.



HE  
SAW THEM,  
DIDN'T HE?

yeah, i  
think so.

but it's  
not like he  
told us much  
about anything  
back then.



their world  
was so small.

all they  
really had was  
each other.

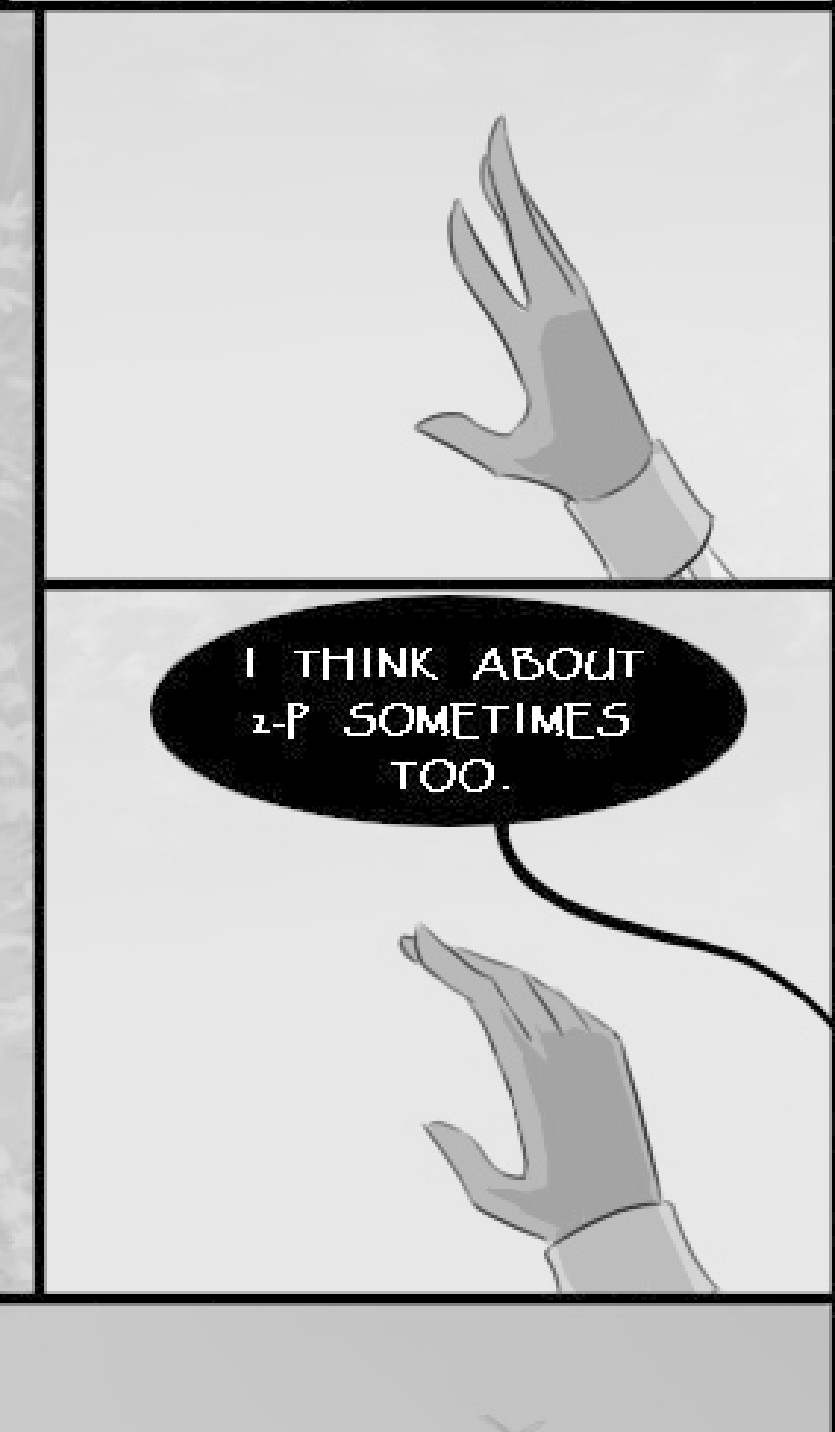


imagine  
if 1-s could see  
us now.

poor angry  
kid, gettin' tortured  
in a jail cell.



never knew  
this would be where  
he'd end up.



I THINK ABOUT  
2-P SOMETIMES  
TOO.



HE WAS SO  
SCARED ALL THE  
TIME,

AND IT  
WAS SO  
HARD.



BUT HE  
DIDN'T GIVE  
UP.

THEY MADE  
IT OUT.



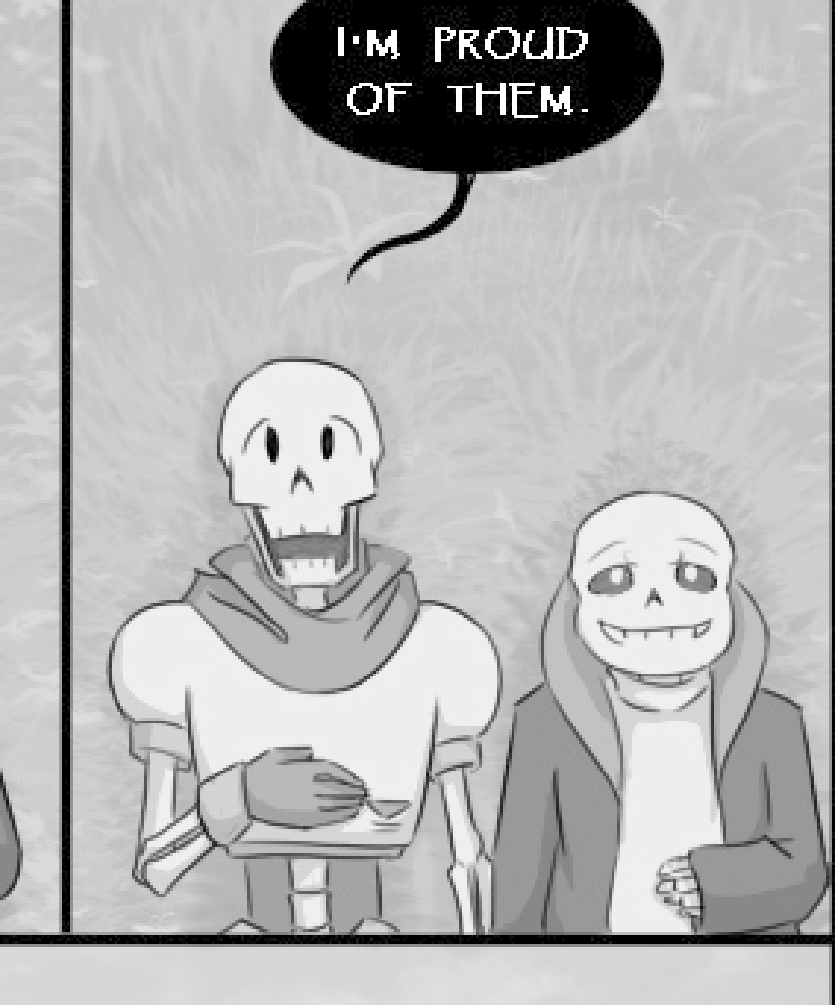
THEY MADE IT  
OUT TOGETHER.

AND  
THEY GOT EVERY  
THING THEY EVER  
WANTED.

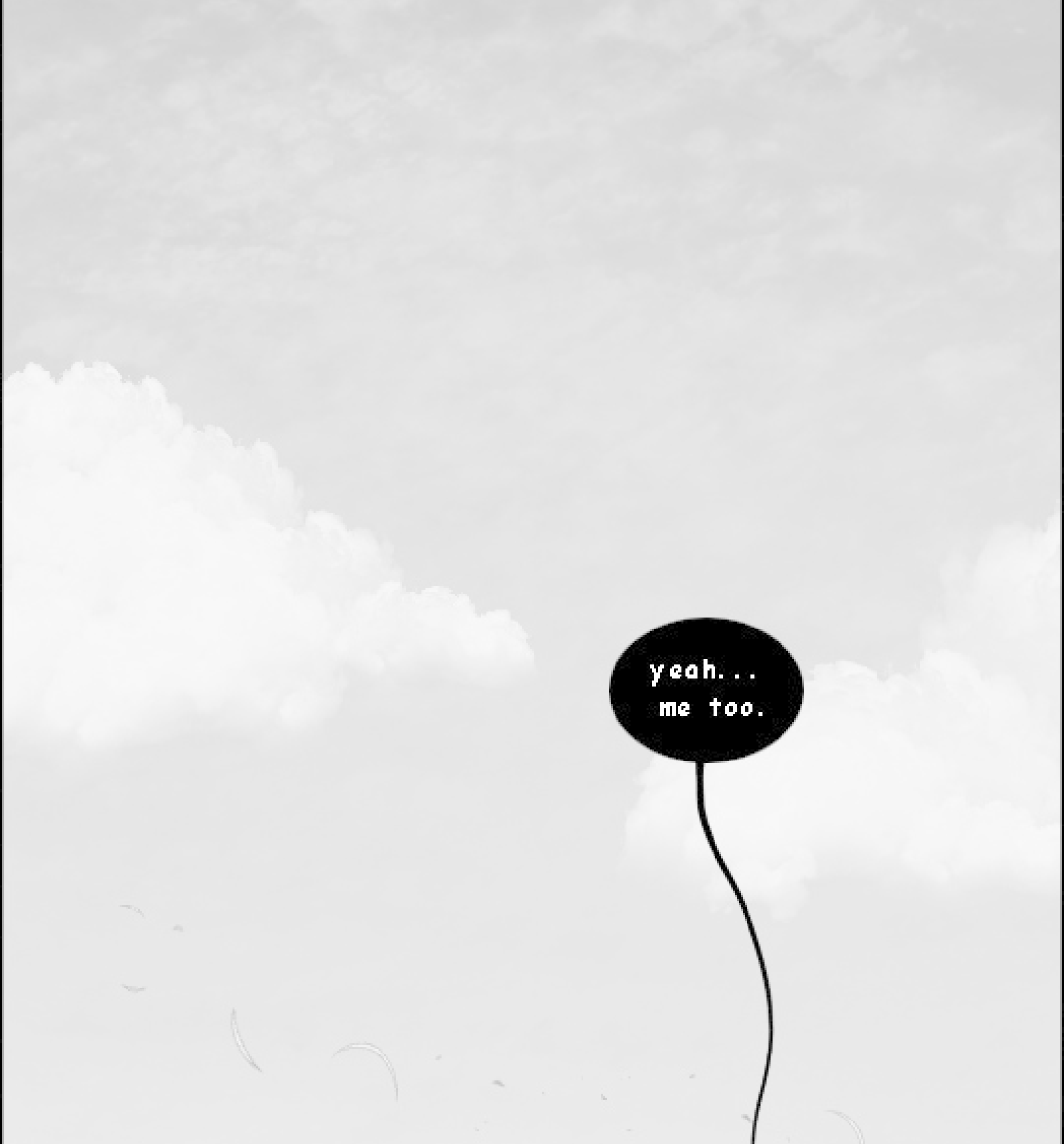


yeah...

i guess  
they did.

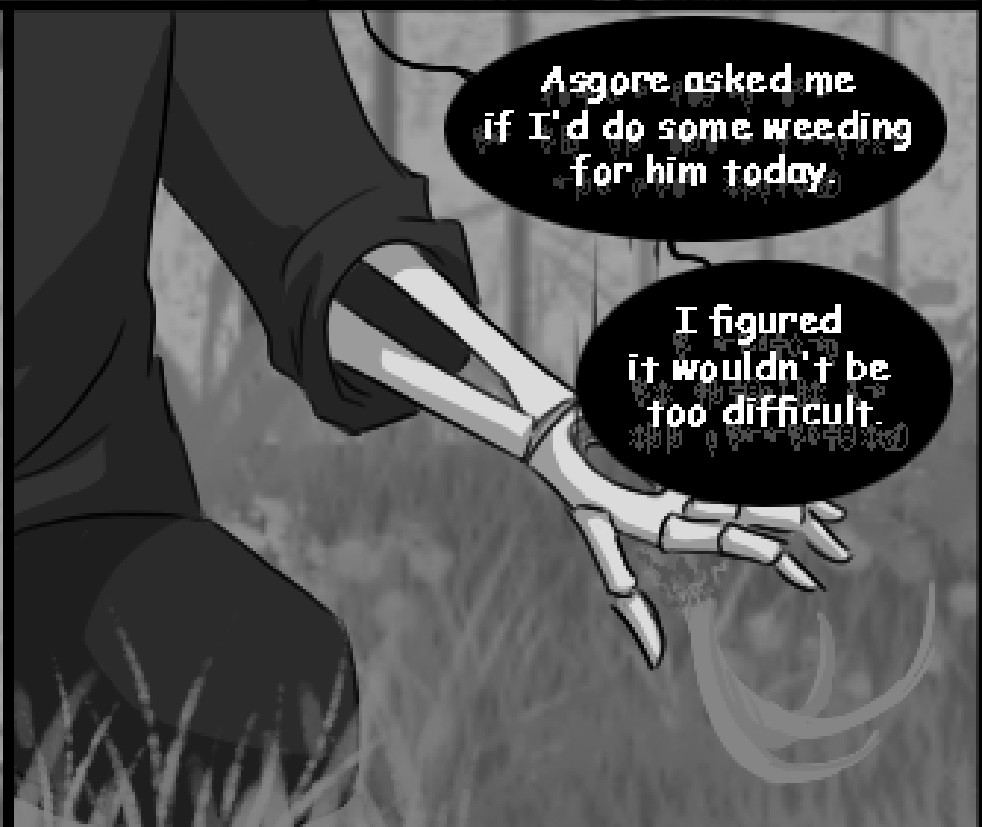


I'M PROUD  
OF THEM.

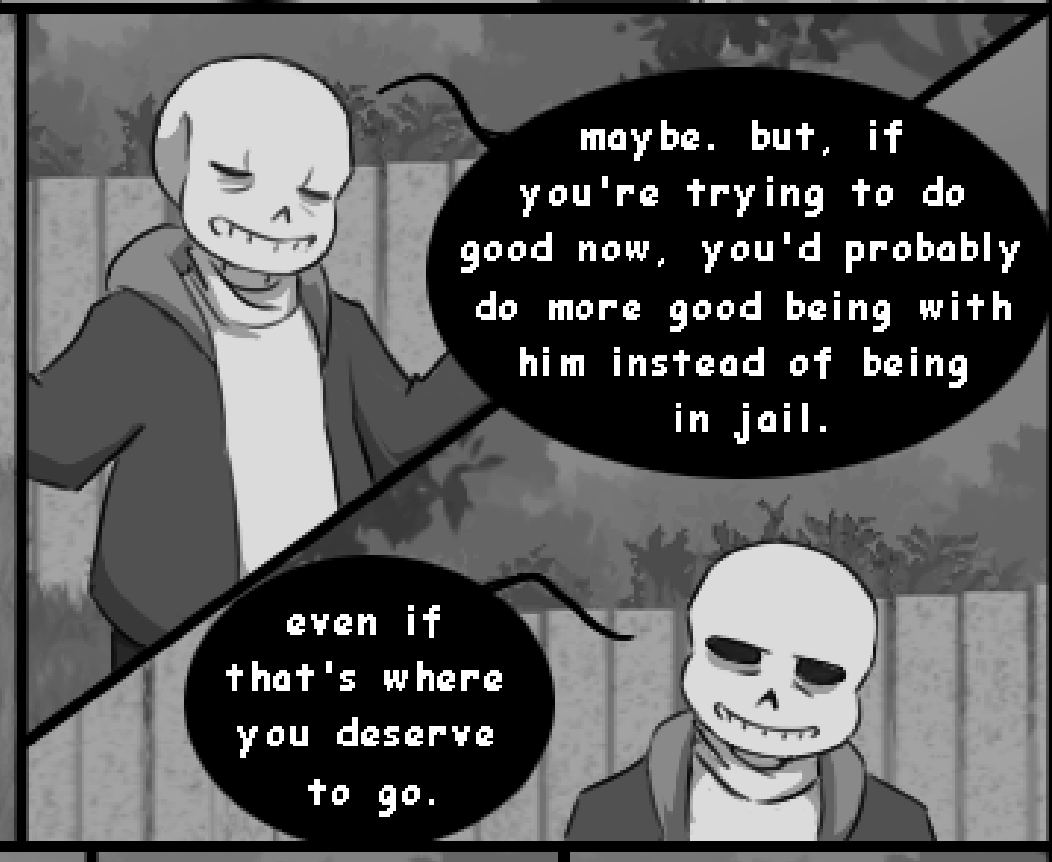
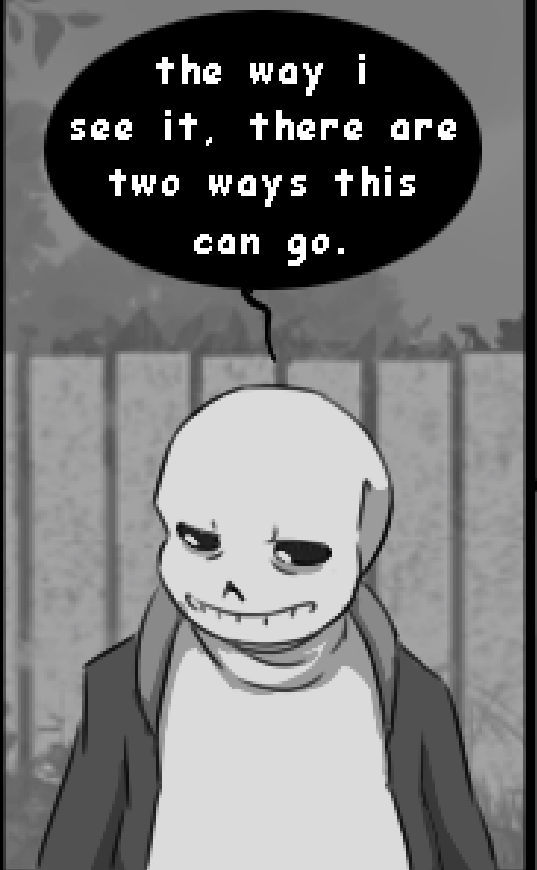


yeah...  
me too.









God, yes. I thought I knew suffering after I fell, but this...

this, every time he looks at me and I know I'm a stranger to him, every time...

I didn't know I could hurt like this. It's agony.

And yet, seeing him here, on the surface, calm and happy and free from his burdens...

that brings me some peace.

As long as he needs me, then I will do everything I can for him.

It's my duty.

huh. who knew you could actually care about someone after all. just not us, i guess.

I'm...

i know, i know. i know you feel bad and are trying and everything.

i just like givin' you a hard time. you know how it is.

No, I understand. It's grounding.

It's easier than it used to be for me to lose track of... who I am, currently. Or, everything that's occurred that makes me "me"

what do you mean?

It's difficult to describe.

When I fell into the Core, I was scattered across all time and space. Imagine every atom of your being torn apart, yet still being alive enough to feel pain, eternally.

I'm still not sure if all of me is back, or ever will be back. Or is even capable of rejoining me. What does that make those pieces, and what does that make "me" as I am currently?

I was something else while I was... there, and I don't know how much of me now is still "that"

It's disorienting to say the least.

something else, huh?

i thought you said you weren't really conscious before.

...I think, to an extent, that I was conscious but... how to explain this. I had no way of processing what it was I was experiencing.

I could see all of our existence all at once... imagine, thousands of moments in time all bombarding you at once constantly, eternally.

Millions, perhaps... how can you understand it? How can you even think under such an onslaught?

I know more than any other being could know about our reality, but I can't even understand what it is I know.

It's still beyond me... I think it's beyond any of us in this world.

so you saw all time and space? you see any of those numbers?

My memory of that period is hazy.

I may have seen them, or a million other things. All of it is all mixed together.

if this is all a game, what do you think it means?

...I'm not sure what this world is.











You've spent so much time toying with this world.

You expended so much effort to bring me back from where I was, to bring all of us here, now, to this very moment.

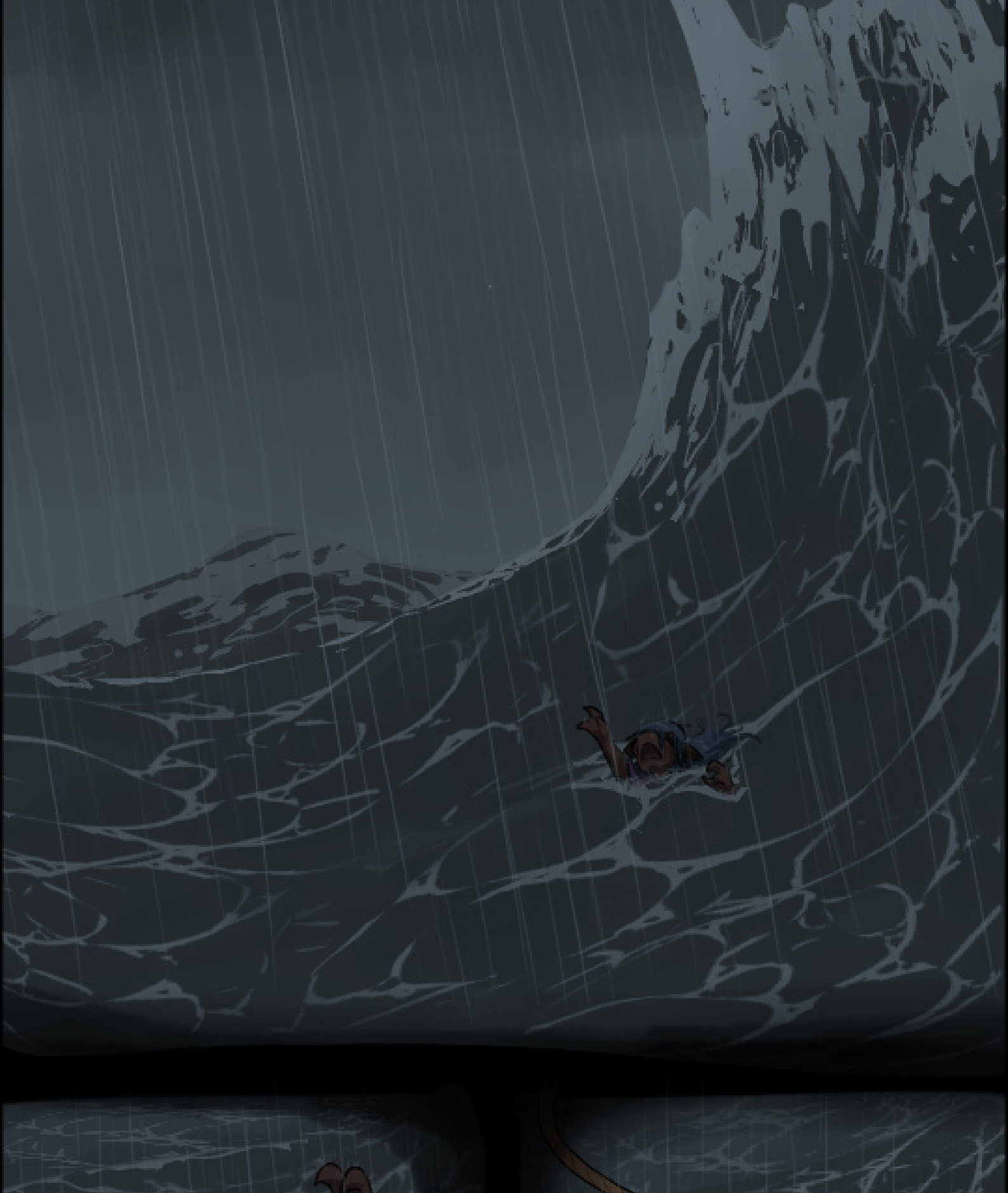
How long did it take you, human?

The tortures you put us through... the happy ending you eventually gave us.

Was it just for your own amusement?

Do any of us, does any of this, mean anything to you?

Do humans do anything but play games?



\* You nod.

\* You say that it did mean something to you.



\* And to a lot of other people.



I can't see how. If you're saying you did this for our sake... I'm doubtful.



When you're bored, you'll undo all of this to get a new ending. With a power like yours, how can you be trusted? How could you be satisfied?

\* You shake your head.

\* This is what you wanted. You aren't going to reset.

\* You're going to leave.







**Handplates is COMPLETE!**

**Please read the entire story  
from the beginning  
and enjoy!**

